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THE

Young Christian's PRAYER BOOK.

DEDICATED
To the YOUNG PEOPLE in

BIRMINGHAM
AND AT
COSELEY.

BY *SAMUEL BOURN.*

Lord Teach us to pray, as John also Taught his Disciples.
Luke xi. 1.

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THE PREFACE.

To the YOUNG PEOPLE in *BIRMINGHAM*, and at *COSELET*.

My YOUNG FRIENDS,

HERE I *offer to your Acceptance, a few of my Labours, wherein I have aimed not only to assist your* Devotions, *as the Title imports, but also to lead your* Judgments *into* right Apprehensions *of God, and to regulate your* Lives; *the* Former *of which is the* only Foundation *of Religion; and the* Latter, *the* only Perfection *of it; and* Prayer *is only an* Effect *of the* Former, *and only a* Means *of the* latter: *Now as the* Means *are only valuable so far as they promote their proper* End, *you will hence see, that all* Prayer, *as to you, is lost, which does not make you* live better; *for God requires* Prayer *not for his* own *sake, but for* your *sake; to sweeten your* Tempers, *by conversing with himself, the best of Beings, and fill you with Benevolence; to correct your* Passions, *and bring them under the conduct of Reason; and to amend your* Actions *and* Carriage *to all about you, in order to your becoming greater Blessings, and prepar'd for more Grace: When*

Prayer *to God thus transforms your* young Souls, *into his own Image, it is* Devotion *indeed, when it has no ſuch effect, it is a Piece of dead* Formality.

In this Collection of Prayers, I do not profeſs to have fitted every ſtate of your Mind, *or every* condition of your Affairs, *or every leſſer* Period *of your* Time, *and* Exigence *of your* Life; *but I have endeavoured to adjuſt them to the moſt* uſual, *and the moſt* important *Caſes; and if you pleaſe to make uſe of them, I hope, under God, they may do you good. However, oblige me with* a Trial *of them; and if they are not ſucceeded to inſpire you with great and lively* Sentiments, *to kindle warm* Affections, *to furniſh apt* Expreſſions, *to refine your* Tempers, *and better your* Practiſe, *you may at any Time exchange them for other Helps.*

I do not propoſe your learning all theſe Prayers by Heart; *but as you have Occaſion, kneel down, and in a calm, compoſed frame of Mind, lay before you the Book, turn to a ſuitable form, and having gain'd a Sentence or Period, lift up your Eyes and Thoughts to Heaven, offer it up to God, and ſo make it indeed* your own Prayer. *If the fervours of your Mind at any time riſe and grow, you may quit the form, and purſue your own Meditations, in the apteſt Words you are able.*

By practiſing *in this, or the like method a while, I hope you will become ſo well diſpos'd, and maſters of ſuch variety of Thoughts and Words, as to be able, on any ordinary Occaſion, to pray with Judgment, Decency and Propriety, whether alone or in Company.*

As to periodical Prayers, I *have prepared only for* Morning *and* Evening: *The ſacred* Scriptures *agree with the voice of* Nature *and* Reaſon, *in calling us to pray at theſe two Seaſons; they being, in themſelves, two* important Points *of Time: At* Night,

Night, *we take leave of the whole World, and for ſix or eight Hours die, or go into a World by our ſelves: In the* Morning *we awake into a new Life, and re-enter the ſenſible and converſible World; at both which Points, it is proper to maintain a little ſerious Converſation with the God of our Lives, and the Father of our Spirits.*

To carry Matters farther, *and tie up* young People, *or others, to* retire *oftner in a Day, or to attend* publick Prayers *daily, or oft in a Day, is, I apprehend, more than God requires, or is generally conſiſtent with the* ſtate of the World; *and has, I think, a* Tendency *to that ſort of Superſtition, which lies in offering God a courſe of bodily, external Services, as an equivalent for a pure Mind and a beneficent Life; or, to what we call* Formality, *putting off God and our Souls with Words and Sounds, Geſtures and Appearances, which divert the Eye and Attention from the* true Ends *of Prayer, which are, ſanctifying the Heart, and correcting the Life.*

A ſolemn, intelligent addreſs to God, Morning *and* Evening, *in our Cloſets and Families, is, I judge, ſufficiently fitted, in ordinary Caſes, to keep the Mind, for the compaſs of a few Hours, under a divine or religious Influence; and will lead a Soul, train'd up in Religion, into thoſe* occaſional elevations *of heart to God, amidſt all Buſineſs, Diverſions and Company, as ſhall have a yet farther Tendency to preſerve from Sin, and lead into all Virtue.*

The general Foundations *of* Prayer *are ſo obvious to all Mankind, I need not inſiſt on them even to* youngPeople; *they all center, on your Parts, in your* dependance upon God; *and no part of Homage is more due from a weak depending Creature, than* Prayer, *to the God on whom he depends for Time and Eternity.*

The

The ends *and* uſes *of* Prayer, *as has been obſerv'd, are principally that* conformity of Mind *to God, which will be the Spring of a ſober, righteous, charitable, pleaſant Life; and the Source of the beſt Hopes and Comforts. And where theſe Ends are not obtained,* Prayer *is the* ſacrifice of Fools.

God's own Benignity is a vaſt Encouragment *to Prayer; but yet farther to encourage us to pray to a God of infinite Holineſs, incomprehenſive Majeſty, and inviſible Glory, and to ſuit our imperfect way of conceiving things, God has appointed a viſible* Mediator, *who having dwelt in our World, and in one of our Bodies, is fitted, by Experience, to be a tender* Interceſſor *for us; and having died on the Croſs to ſhow what was due to us, he is gone (after the manner of the* Jewish *High Prieſt) to plead his Blood and Sacrifice on our behalf; that his voluntary Obedience to the Death, may be accepted as an Atonement for all penitent Sinners. To theſe may be added, that the kind and gracious* Invitations *of God; and the* Character *of* Father *he bears, are great* Encouragements *to this Duty.*

As to method *in* Prayer, *I have not ſtrictly kept to any;* young People *have very good Aſſiſtance on this Head given them by thoſe three Chriſtian Biſhops,* Wilkins, Henry *and* Watts.

As to the Mode *of addreſſing God, whether in a more* free *way, or by* Forms *pre-compoſed, whether alone or in Society; the Point has been a ſubject of much Controverſy, yet thinking, ſerious Men, on which ever ſide they ſtand, are almoſt all of a Mind as to what is of moment in it.*

My own Thoughts lie pretty much in this way at preſent, that Prayer *is ſtatedly due from every intelligent Creature to God; that it is equally acceptable to God whether it be cloathed in Words, or offered up in naked Thoughts, where the mind is ſuitably diſpos'd; that yet even in* Solitary *addreſſes*

dreſſeſs to God, a Spirit in Body, and under the Influence of corporeal Impreſſion, may find it ſelf better able to carry on an Intercourſe with the great God by means of Words, *than by conceptions only without Words; that where he finds the uſe of Words ſerviceable, he is at entire Liberty to make uſe of the beſt he can form for himſelf, or of ſuch as he can borrow from others, as ſhall, in his own Judgment, beſt expreſs his own Caſe, and beſt diſpoſe his own Temper, in this ſacred Employment; and that no one has Authority to infringe this natural Liberty.*

Neceſſity, and the Advantages ariſing from Community, having drawn Mankind into Societies of a larger ſort, made up of ſeveral natural or Family-Societies; they are oblig'd publickly, in their ſocial Capacity, to own God, particularly by Prayer *to God on whom their Being and Welfare depends. A Society cannot carry on ſocial Prayer, without Confuſion, but by their chuſing a proper Man to be their Mouth, or to offer up their common addreſſes to God: If they act wiſely, they will chooſe a Man who underſtands the ſtate of Men, and who will apply himſelf to underſtand the ſtate of their own Society; who has a reliſh of ſacred Things, and will manage that great Truſt awfully, and who has a Capacity to expreſs himſelf ſuitably to the nature of his Work; copiouſly, and aptly to the Caſes of the Society he repreſents, and whoſe Prayers he offers up: A Man thus qualified may be ſafely truſted with ſuch a Service; and theſe are ſuch rights of any Society, which, I apprehend, no Man, or Body of Men, may lawfully invade, or can have right to take away.*

In caſe they cannot find amongſt their own Body, a Man qualified for that Work, nor obtain one elſewhere, rather than publick Prayer ſhou'd be neglected, or ſhou'd be indecently and wretchedly perform'd, it muſt be their Duty to procure the Aſſiſtance of

wiſe

wiſe and good Men in drawing up Prayers for their Uſe, ſo general, as to ſuit all Times, and which they can truſt to the Management of a Man of inferior Abilities; yet they ought to do this with a Liberty reſerv'd for his own Improvements, and for the change of his Addreſſes, as the ſtate of the Affairs of the Society ſhall change.

Where I find Societies of Chriſtians round me in both theſe ways of Practiſe, (ſuppoſing no Uſurpation of unjuſt Authority, no Impoſition by unlawful Dominion) I ſhou'd rather chooſe to join with a Society where the work of publick Prayer is carried on by the free uſe of a Man's Talents, who is well qualified for his office, and employs a wiſe, judicious, affectionate copiouſneſs and variety in Prayer, ſuited to the emergent Caſes of the Society; than with a Society who are content with Prayers pre-compoſed, which cannot fit all Caſes either of the Society in general, or of its particular Members, and which muſt grow dry and taſteleſs by frequent Repetitions.

On the other hand, were all other Circumſtances equal, I think I ſhou'd chooſe ſtatedly to join with a Society where pre-compoſed Forms (eſpecially if not unrighteouſly impos'd) are uſed, which are proper, grave, methodical, apt and moving, and are ſeriouſly offered up unto God, than with a Society, where a Man is ſtatedly employ'd, who fills his Prayers with fantaſtical, conceited Expreſſions, private Notions, ſenſeleſs Sounds, tedious Bablings, and affected Heats: But this may be thought more than enough *upon the* Mode *of Prayer, ſolitary and ſocial.*

There is not Occaſion for many Obſervations *upon the Prayers prepared for you: I have drawn them in the beſt manner I was able in the time employ'd, in ſome of them I have borrow'd a little Aſſiſtance, and chiefly from* Patrick.

A few

A few of them, particularly those two for young Women in Town *and* Country, *are fitted to such as are of superior Sense, Family and Fortune, more than to those of a lower Class.*

And I have one Request to make to the young People *of* upper Rank; *That if they find this little Book blessed of God to do* themselves *good, they will, in a Charitable way, spread it amongst* others, *Servants, and young People in their Neighbourhood, of a* lower Form; *or, will move their Parents to do it, as a proper Testimony of their Gratitude towards God.*

If a Meditation *had been annexed to each Prayer, this Essay had been more perfect; and if any fit Person undertake it, it will be, I hope, an acceptable Service.*

I have gone through what I first intended, which was to assist younger Christians in conversing with God by Prayer; *but, through the Advice of a judicious Friend, I recommend to you the two following Directions.*

That your Prayers to God be at all Times { Intelligent *and* Serious

1. Intelligent, *or, that you pray with Understanding; using no* Words *in Prayer without a corresponding Idea and Conception in the Mind; and offering up no* Petition, *or form of Address, which you do not see is suitable to your Case.*

To pray with Understanding supposes *you know that the God you pray to is every where present, seeth your Hearts, heareth your Prayers, and is pleased to see his Creatures in a becoming manner pray to him. It* supposes *you are no strangers to your selves, your own Sins, Wants, Mercies, Dependance.*

To pray with Understanding includes Attention; *that you fix your Thoughts on the great object of Prayer, and mind the Import of every Address you make to God.*

I would have you make a wide difference between saying your Prayers, *or* reading Prayers, *and* Praying; *the* former *is the ſervice of* meer Children, *or of* Men in Pay, *and has no Religion at all in it*; *the* latter *is the Service of a rational and religious Creature, who ſees and feels its dependance on God.*

To pray with Underſtanding and Judgment includes FAITH; *Faith in God's Ability to help, in his Readineſs to do it, in Chriſt's Mediation for you, and in God's appointment of Prayer as a Condition of his Favour, and as a Preparative of the Soul for Mercy.*

By this ſhort Account you ſee how many great Characters muſt concur to make up an Intelligent Prayer.

2. *Always pray, with a* ſerious *Mind, a Heart called off from the World, and offered up to God. Fear leſt this excellent Service degenerate into a* cuſtomary, dead Task, *wherein neither your ſelves, nor God, take any Pleaſure. The Tempers and Diſpoſitions of the Heart in Prayer is the* chief Thing *in God's account*; *let me exhort and perſwade you then to aim at this great Point,* "*That your Prayers be always accompanied with an inward deſire to pleaſe God in all your Actions*; *with a juſt, friendly, forgiving, reconcilable Inclination towards all about you*; *and with a real Intention to depart from all Iniquity*; *which if practis'd, will prove the Inſincerity, and hinder the Efficacy of your Prayers.*

In this judicious *and* ſerious *Manner, enter* young Chriſtians, *into your Cloſets, Morning and Evening, and pray to your Father, who ſeeth in Secret, and doubt not you will find your Account in it, by a preſent Acceptance with God, and a future Reward from him.*

I ſuppoſe you to be yet in an Age and Station which require not the Uſe of many Social *or* Family-Prayers, *and therefore have prepared few in*

that

that Form: Tho' I have a large Collection of ſcriptural Materials for Prayer, which may perhaps be fitted for your Uſe againſt the Time when you ſhall ſtand at the Head of Families, if I am ſo long ſpar'd.

This Addreſs *I conclude with wiſhing all my young Hearers and Friends, both in Town and Country, all thoſe Virtues which will make them Lovely and Uſeful* at preſent, *and will prepare them for Stations of enlarged Uſefulneſs* hereafter, *upon Earth, and for great Rewards in* Heaven; *And in any Meaſure, to contribute to theſe great Wiſhes, will be the Pleaſure, and ſhall be the Endeavour, of Your*

Affectionate Paſtor

and Servant,

S. Bourn.

Coſeley April 6.
1733.

THE

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ERRATA.

PAGE 5. line 17. for *this* read *thy*. p. 30. l. 32. for *Law* r. *Care*. p. 44. l. 19 for *ſell*, r. *ſelf*. p. 50. l. 32. for *thy* r. *my*. p. 66. l. 3. r. *any*. p. 76. l. 20. r. in *the* Spirit. p. 96. l. 6. r. *and* I hope. p. 100. l. 25. dele *in*. p. 119. l. 18, and 20. r. *Mediator*. p. 123 for 4th Evening prayer, r. 4th *Morning Prayer*.

Words that ought to have been in *Italick*.

Page 6. l. 27. r. *Greatneſs*. p. 11. l. 34. r. *thy Mercy*. p. 36. l. 13. r. *Power*. p. 42. l. 25. r. *Holineſs*. p. 68. l. 30. r. *Goſpel*. p. 85. l. 30. r. *Troubles*. p. 115. l. 18. r. *Rome*.

Miſtakes in pointing, it is hop'd will be forgiven.

p. 143 l. 1. read ſupplying *us*. *Preface* p. 6. l. 9. read *Incomprehenſible*. p. 9. l. 22 read That *in* your Prayers to God, *you* be.

THE YOUNG *CHRISTIAN'S* Prayer BOOK.

A PRAYER *for a* CHILD.

O Lord God; I am a poor helpleſs ſinful Child, ignorant of thee, and apt to wander from thee, and forget my Duty to thee: But thou art a merciful God, and haſt ſent thy Son, the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, to die for me, teach and ſave me.

I pray that, for his Sake, thou wilt pardon all my Sins, and give me thy holy Spirit to make me a Child of God, and to fit me for Death and Heaven.

Make me Wiſe, Juſt and Charitable; teach me to pray, to keep holy the Lords Day, to know the Scriptures. and to remember thee in my Youth.

Keep me from Satans Temptations, from bad Company, and from all bad Thoughts, Words and Actions.

Love me as thy Child, and help me to love thee as my Father: Work in me a gracious Change, and make me grow in Grace as I do in Days.

Give thine Angels charge over me Day and Night. Bleſs my Father and Mother, *&c.* — and all my Relations; and all thy Miniſters

and People; help me to love them, honour them, and do all my Duty to them.

I thank thee, O Lord, for all thy Mercies, but I wou'd be moſt thankful for Jeſus Chriſt my Redeemer, who hath taught us to pray after this Manner, *Our Father, who art in Heaven*, &c.

II. *Another General* PRAYER *for a* CHILD.

O moſt bleſſed God, thou loveſt Thoſe who love thee, and they who *Seek* thee early ſhall *Find* thee; I therefore pray unto thee, who am *but a Child*, and hope thou wilt not caſt me out of thy Preſence.

Thou art *my God*, and I will praiſe thee, my *Father's God* and I will exalt thee; Thou haſt made me for thy Self, and redeemed me for thy Glory; and in *Baptiſm, have I been devoted to thee; But by Nature and Cuſtom I am a ſtranger to thee, inclined to the Vanities of Childhood, and the Follies of Youth, averſe to God and Heavenly Things, and deſerve to be rejected for ever.

But I caſt myſelf down before thee, a God of Mercy, and who delighteſt not in the Death of Sinners, begging, that, through the Obedience and Blood of thy Son, thou wouldſt cleanſe me from all Sin, renew my Spirit, reſtore my loſt Innocency, and let thy Word and Spirit be in me a Principle of Life, Light and Joy, that I may ſeek in the firſt place the Kingdom of God; for whom

---

* *Children not Baptiz'd muſt leave out the Clauſe about* Baptiſm:

whom have I *in Heaven* but thee, and there is none *upon Earth* I desire besides thee; Thee, O God I choose as my God and my Portion for ever.

And seeing *Little Children* are called to God, and are declared to belong to the Kingdom of Heaven; I now come to thee, accept me as thy Child, thy Servant and a Subject of thy Kingdom: Take me into thy Arms, O Father; and may the Hands of thy Son be upon me and bless me.

Deliver me from all the Snares of the Devil, from Sinfull Company, from a Lying Tongue, from Foolish and Filthy Jests, and from a Worldly Spirit; may I never be a *Lover of Pleasure* more than of God.

Be thou a Father to me in the *dearest sense*, to teach me, guide me, protect me, and provide for me; inspire me with the Love of Truth, help me to understand the Scriptures, and to continue in the Things which I have learn'd.

Spare to me my Father and Mother, *incline me to all my Duty to them, and to all other my Relations, and to all Men.

Keep me every Day and Night, prepare me for Dying and Judgement; and when I die, take up my Soul to Heaven, to live with Christ Angels and good Men there.

I thank and praise thee, O good God, for all thou hast done for me, for Life and Health, my Reason and Senses, my Food and Raiment, and the Blessings of my Education; and, with all my Soul, I bless thee for thine infinite love in the Redemption of the World by Jesus Christ, for

---

* *Children must be taught to pray* only *for their* living *Relations.*

for all means of Holineſs, and for the hopes of Glory; and I pray that in all things God may be glorified, through Jeſus Chriſt, to whom be Glory and Dominion for ever and ever. *Amen.*

III. *A* CHILD *or* YOUTH, *ſeeking* GOD.

GReat God! I am but of Yeſterday, and know little of *my ſelf*, and leſs of *God*; I know but little of *this World*, and leſs of *the Other*: But I would fain know *more*; I ſee a beautiful World around me, Sun, Moon, and Stars, Fields, Mountains, and Rivers, multitudes of Men, Beaſts, Birds, Trees, and Flowers, I wou'd fain know who made them all, who maintains and governs them all.

Creation

Every Houſe I know is built by ſome Man, I am as ſure that *this World* has a great, a wiſe, a good Builder; O that I could come near him, that I might enter into his acquaintance.

O Father of Spirits! O Fountain of Wiſdom! who teaches like thee? I come to ask Wiſdom from thee; open my *Young Eyes*, that I may ſee, may *ſee thee* in all thy Works of Wonder; touch my *Young Heart*, that I may love thee; conquer my *Whole Soul*, that I may ſerve thee; *Draw* me, and I ſhall *Run* after thee.

I wou'd not live *Ignorant* of thee, or a *Stranger* to thee any longer; as thou haſt made the *Seeing Eye*, and planted the *Hearing Ear*, and created in me the *Underſtanding Spirit*, I wou'd employ theſe and all my Powers, in ſeeking after God my Maker.

I acknowledge with Thankfulneſs that thou haſt already taught me to know ſomething of thee

thee, thou haſt taught me *out of thy Word*; I bleſs thee for that bleſſed Book, *my Bible*; by reading it may I come to know more both of thee my God and Father, and of Jeſus Chriſt, whom thou haſt ſent to be my Teacher, King and Saviour,

Thou haſt taught me by the Inſtructions of *my Father and Mother*: I thank God for them, may I always give attention to them.

Thou art teaching me by *thy Miniſters*, may I grow wiſe under them.

Thou art teaching me by many excellent *Books*, may I love and value them.

Thou art teaching me by all thy *Providences*, may I attend to what thou art every where doing

Finally, I beg that through this Bleſſing on diligent and ſerious Thoughtfulneſs, I may at length become wiſe, and may always behave as a Child of God, in all Sobriety, Modeſty, Righteouſneſs, and Goodneſs; ſtriving to keep all my Heavenly Father's Commandments, that at death I may go live with God my Father to behold his glory; and be made wiſe, holy, and happy, as Angels and glorified Souls are, through Jeſus Chriſt my dear Redeemer, who died to bring me to God, through whom be given to thee, O Father, Everlaſting Praiſes. *Amen*

IV. *A* YOUTH *Worſhipping* GOD, *having found him.*

O moſt High and Holy God! I have *ſought* thee and have *found* thee; a while ago I knew thee not, though thou waſt ever *near me*; but thy Grace has abounded towards me; thou haſt

haſt open'd mine Eyes, and *I ſee thee*, I ſee thine inviſible perfections drawn upon all thy works of wonder.

The Hns.

When I liſt up my Eyes, and conſider the Heavens, I own them to be the works of thy Hand; and I admire that the Builder and Inhabiter of thoſe glorious Worlds ſhould look down upon Man, and viſit ſuch worms as me.

The Sun, Moon, and Stars, are all created by thee, I ſee thy Glory in them all, and the Glory of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt, by whom thou madeſt the Worlds; they do every day and every night ſpeak thy praiſe, and tell the the World *there is a God.* And while the Heavens declare thy Glory, and the Firmament thy handy work, how can I forbear to worſhip and adore thee, their great Creator.

Creation

Thou, O Almighty God! hangeſt the Earth upon Nothing, ballanceſt the Clouds, bringeſt the Wind out of thy Treaſuries, Thundereſt marvelouſly with thy voice, cauſeſt the Sea to know its bounds, and keepeſt in a ſteddy Courſe the Ordinances of Heaven.

I Worſhip, I Admire, I Adore the God of Nature and Providence, whoſe hand doth all theſe things, and who fainteth not, neither is weary.

I adore thine infinite Greatneſs and Majeſty, who art far above all Bleſſing and Praiſe; and in compariſon with whom all the Inhabitants of the Earth are as Graſs-hoppers.

I adore thine infinite *Power*, who ſpakeſt, and the World was made; who doſt whatever thou pleaſeſt in Heaven, and on Earth; and whoſe Kingdom ruleth over all.

I admire and adore thine infinite *Knowledge* and *Wiſdom* and *Univerſal Preſence*; All thy works are known to thee: How manifold are they; all made in wiſdom; and where can I go, where thou art not.

I adore

I adore and tremble at thy *Holineſs* and *Purity*, who chargeſt thine Angels with Folly, and the Heavens are unclean in thy ſight. D. Holineſs

I adore thy *Juſtice*, and give thee the Glory of the Rectitude of thy Nature, and the perfect Righteouſneſs of thy Government, and wait thy univerſal Judgment, when thou wilt Judge the World by Jeſus Chriſt. D. juſtice

I admire and adore thine infinite *Goodneſs*; the Earth is full of it? but what mind can conceive, what tongue can tell the wonders of thy goodneſs, and love manifeſted in giving thy beloved Son to ſave a periſhing World! O the height and depth of that love! How many thouſand Sinners have been pardoned through Chriſt, and yet pardoning grace is ſtill offer'd! How long does divine pity wait over Sinners! How long haſt thou had patience with me! At length I come, I come worſhiping at thy Foot-Stool, admiring the riches of thy grace in Chriſt, adoring that goodneſs which offers me a thouſand bleſſings by the Goſpel, and which has laid up more for me than can enter into my heart to conceive. D. goodneſs.

Accept, O God, accept thine own Creature, lying proſtrate before thee; make me one more inſtance of pardoning and ſaving grace; that I may ſhew forth thy praiſes in the Gates of the Daughter of *Zion*, even in thy Earthly Temples, and may go e'er long to ſing thy praiſes in thine eternal Temple; for the ſake of an Obedient, a Bleeding, a Dying, an Interceding Saviour. *Amen.* Pardon & Heaven

V. *A Repenting* YOUTH *at* PRAYER.

O moſt great and dreadful, moſt juſt and holy, moſt gracious and merciful Lord God! Repent.

I am

I am a wretched, undone Sinner, and had been *undone for ever*, unleſs thou hadſt pulled me as a Brand out of the Fire.

I have run from God, and been trampling upon all thy Laws; I have been either playing or daring on the brink of Hell, and at the very mouth of Deſtruction.

Sin aggrav. For many a year have I been Sinning at a high rate, practiſing almoſt every youthful Luſt; I have broken through the reſtraints of Principle and Education, forced Conſcience, ſtifled Conviction, and hardened my Neck againſt reproof.

In what a periſhing condition have I lived many a day, what wondrous grace is it ſuch a Creature, as I am, is *out of Hell*, who have ſtopped my Ear on Sermons, deſpiſed and hated Inſtruction, ſlighted and neglected Prayer, and rejected all the offers of thy Love.

But thou haſt had mercy on me in my miſery, thine Eyes pitied me, and thy Hand touched my Heart; thy word and thy rod have awak'd me, I now begin to ſee my *Deformity*, my *Folly*, and my *Danger*: I ſee thy Flaming Sword hang over me, all the terrors of the Law and Goſpel belong to me; but I fly, I fly from thy Juſtice, O dreadful Majeſty! I fly to thy Mercy.

I ſee thy Arms of Grace extended to receive me; I ſee a Fountain open'd to waſh me; I ſee the Blood of Chriſt ſhed to take away my Sin. It has been trampled on, *Deſpiſed Blood*, but now it is prized blood; I prize it above all the world; I plead it as my Atonement; I have *no other Plea* but his Merits and thy Mercy; Thou haſt ſent him to be my Saviour, ſave me O God, through him, by the Virtue of *his Blood*, by the Efficacy of *his Spirit*, by the power of *his Word*.

Save

Save me, O God, or I am *loſt for ever*; I review my whole Life with horror, I repent in Duſt and Aſhes, I have done fooliſhly a thouſand Times; and forgotten thee Days without Number; but, I hope thou haſt changed me, and form'd me anew, and that I am not the Creature I was a while ago: I am aſhamed, yea, even confounded when I look back. —— But with thee is plenteous pardon, pardon my tranſgreſſions, for they are great, multiply to pardon the multitude of my Sins; let a repenting Rebel live; I purpoſe, by thy Grace, to offend no more.

O God, Create my Heart anew, repair thine Image in me, put thy Holy Spirit within me and make me thine own Child.

I have been a *Lover of the World*, and of *Sinful Pleaſure* more than of God; have indulged *my Body*, but neglected, ſtarved and wronged *my Soul*? this is my Load, my Folly, and my Shame; but I return to thee through Chriſt, I caſt myſelf upon thy Grace, here I am at thy Feet; Lord, do with me what ſeemeth good in thy Sight; only caſt me not away for ever; nothing is ſo terrifying as the thought of *Everlaſting Baniſhment* from thy Preſence. Self-Condemn

Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me, through the Blood of thy Son, which taketh away the Sin of the World; enter not into Judgment with me, for I cannot ſtand in thy ſight; deal with me on the Terms of thy gracious Covenant and promiſe in Chriſt.

And as I am reſolved to be thine, and to ſerve thee through the remains of my Life, I pray thee confirm and make unchangeable in me thoſe Reſolutions, that I may indeed *be thine*, thy Child, and thy Servant for ever; and at laſt find a place in Heaven, through Jeſus Chriſt, the Lamb that was Slain, who is worthy to receive Power,

and Riches, and Wiſdom, and Strength, and Honour, and Glory, and Bleſſing for ever and ever; *Amen*,

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* *Or Herſelf* VI. *A* YOUTH *dedicating* * *Himſelf to* GOD *in* PRAYER.

Self-dedication.

LOrd God, I own my ſelf *thy Creature*, a dependant upon thy Power and Goodneſs, Thou formedſt *my Body*, and gaveſt me *this Soul*, and madeſt me *what I am*, I am one of thy *redeemed Creatures*, Thou ſaweſt me lying in the rubbiſh of the Apoſtacy, a fallen, a loſt, a helpleſs Creature, and thine Eye pitied me, Thou ſenteſt thy Son to deliver me, He, by his Blood, has bought me, and I acknowledge *I am thine*, a price is paid for my Heart, my Love my Service is all thy due.

But alaſs, I have been many a year wandering from thee; of a long time I have never looked up to God my Maker, I was unmindful of my Redeemer, thou calledſt *my Son*, *give me thine Heart*; but I refuſed thy juſt claim, as a Deaf Man I heard not thy Voice.

Now at laſt, Bleſſed be thy Love! thy Word has opened mine Eyes, thou haſt found me, before I ſought thee? thy Grace has conquer'd me; I will be no longer a Rebel againſt thy Authority; I yeild; I yeild; to thy juſt Dominion do I yeild; I now own thy claim, I give thee my Heart; I will be thy Servant for ever.

Accept this poor Offering, O Heavenly Father, which thy Child brings thee; the Offering of a poor, blind, vain, and dead Heart; waſh it Lord, ſanctifie, enlighten it, and fit it for thine Acceptance; refuſe not a returning Child, pardon all mine Unworthineſs, and be pleaſed with my preſent ſurrender, And

And now Lord, under a ſtrong Conviction that *I am thine*, that by a thouſand Ties I am thine, do I ſolemnly dedicate my ſelf to thee; I enter into thy Covenant, I conſent to all thy Pleaſure; Here I lie at the Threſhold of thy Door. What would'ſt thou have me to do. Take me into thy Houſe, form my Heart anew, Create it over again; Treat me as thy Child, *Teach* me out of thy Law, *Feed* me with the Doctrine of Salvation, *Rule* me by thy Spirit, and prepare me for thy Glory, Surrender

Haſten this Bleſſed Work, O my God, before thou *cauſe Darkneſs*, and before *my Feet ſtumble upon the Dark Mountains*, and leſt while I *look for Light*, thou turn it into the *Shadow of Death*: Having begun, go on and finiſh this Work of Grace, draw in me the *laſt Lines* of the New Creature, that being built up into a Living Temple, I may be for ever *with thee*, and all that thou haſt *be mine*, through Jeſus Chriſt thy Son, through whom to God only Wiſe, be given Glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

VII. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG PERSON *taken Ill.*

WHo and what am I, *Heavenly Father*, that I ſhould ſpeak unto thee; I am a Sinful, a Sick, a Dying Creature, how ſhall I dare to approach the Holy, the Bleſſed, the Immortal God! I am Duſt, unclean Duſt, how ſhall I appear in thy preſence? but where can I go for Relief, unleſs to the Fountain of all Mercy; hear me and help me, pity and ſpare me, or I am gone; I die and am *loſt for ever*, if God have not Mercy on me. Sick

But as all the World Proclaims *thy Bounty*; ſo thy Word declares thy Mercy; Thou not only admitteſt, but by thy Word inviteſt ſuch poor

undone helpleſs Creatures to thy Throne, and haſt in Love and Pity, ſent down thy Son to Redeem me from Sin, and the World, Death and Hell, and appointed him my Advocate Above: Taking encouragement from all this Grace and Goodneſs, I fly to thee my God through Chriſt, begging to be ſpared a while longer, that this Sickneſs may not be *unto Death*; and I humbly ask a little relief under my Affliction and my Pain; Remember, O God, *how frail I am*, and lay no more upon me than I can bear.

But I moſt earneſtly beg, that, through Chriſt my Dear Saviour, all my Sins may be forgiven.

I have been a fooliſh Creature, unattentive to the things of Religion, Careleſs of my Soul, a ſad Miſ-pender of my Time; I have ſlighted my Teachers, neglected Sermons, loſt Sabbaths, reſtrained Prayer; and have addicted my ſelf to many Sins, which I bluſh to think of, and am aſhamed to name. O my God; ſuffer me not to die *under all this Guilt*; How ſhall I appear before thee, in all mine iniquity; pardon me good Lord, or I am undone, undone for ever.

Work in me that Repentance which will qualify me for pardon; Better my Soul by this affliction, and by lifting it up to thee in this prayer; Form anew my Spirit, O gracious God, that I may poſſeſs ſome comfortable hope, by finding and feeling that I am born again, and that my Heart is turned from all mine iniquity; And if I am now ſpared, may my walking in the Spirit of Sobriety, Goodneſs and all Holineſs prove to my ſelf and others the reality of my Converſion.

It is fit that thou, O Righteous Judge, who ruleſt in Heaven, ſhould'ſt rule on Earth; nor canſt thou need Direction how to diſpoſe of any Creature thou haſt made; and as I have been a very

very *unprofitable part of thy* Earth, I am unworthy to be in it any longer; yet, if with Honour thou canſt do it, ſpare a repenting Sinner, who deſires not to live, but to *ſerve thee* better, and better to ſecure *my Happineſs*, by improving my future time, in doing Good, and perfecting Holineſs in thy Fear.

And now, Lord, I am in thy Hand, do with me as ſeemeth good in thy ſight, only ſhew unto my Soul the Mercies of my Lord Jeſus unto eternal life. *Amen.*

VIII. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Perſon recover'd.*

Recovery

O Father of Mercies, and God of all Grace, from Everlaſting to Everlaſting thou art God; whereas I am but of Yeſterday, a Flower *lately ſprung up*, and every day *liable to be cut down*; and by my paſt unfruitful Life have *deſerved* to be cut down as a Cumberer of thy ground: And thou haſt lately *threatened* to do it, as I know, thou hadſt *a Right* to do it; but in the midſt of Wrath thou haſt Remembered Mercy, thou haſt heard *my* Prayers, and the Prayers offered up *for me*, haſt ſucceeded Medicines, and haſt once more reprieved a young Sinner, and art putting me upon a new Trial.

Poſſeſs my Soul, O Gracious God, with a deep and laſting ſenſe of thy abounding Grace in Chriſt my Lord, which may lead me into a Conſcientious regard to all thy Holy Commands; that this inſtance of thy Pity and Patience may not be loſt upon me.

I own thy Sovereign Authority over me, and the Juſtice of thy diſpleaſure againſt me, for all my paſt neglects; Thou mighteſt have called me to Judgment, and have condemned me to eternal

Shame

Shame, but I live a new monument of rich Mercy; I beg I may live an Inſtrument of thy Glory, and that a walking in newneſs of life may be a ſatisfying Evidence *I love God*, and am *beloved by him*, and am indeed born into his Kingdom.

Bleſſed, for ever bleſſed and praiſed be thy Goodneſs, O thou *Preſerver of Man*, who haſt redeemed my life from Deſtruction; Thou killeſt, and thou makeſt alive; it is of thy Mercies I am not *gone down into Silence*, and becauſe thy Compaſſions fail not, that I am *out of Hell.*

I deſire not only to offer thee my *private* Praiſes, but to go into thine own Houſe, in the multitude of thy tender Mercies, and *in Publick* pay my Vows unto thee, the God of my life.

Bleſs the Lord, O my Soul, all that is within me bleſs his holy Name, who has not turned away *my* Prayer from him, nor *his* Mercy from me.

O Father of Mercies, and Fountain of Grace thoroughly take away mine iniquity, and purge away all my Sin; withdraw my Heart more and more from all the ſenſual Vanities and Pleaſures of this World; cauſe me to flee every *Youthful Luſt*, and by following after Righteouſneſs, Fidelity, and Charity, may I ſeek a portion in durable Enjoyments.

Teach me, by this affliction, to put a due Value upon Health, Strength, Time, Liberty, Eaſe, Plenty, and eſpecially on Seaſons for Spiritual Improvement, that I may ſo uſe them all as ſenſible my Days are *as a Shadow*, and that I have no Continuance here.

Aſſiſt me to ſerve thee with *Unchangable* Love and Obedience in all the future *Changes* of my Life; and when Death comes in Earneſt, make me both *fit* to die, and *willing* to die, and make me

me bleſſed in, and after Death, by taking me into thine Immediate Preſence, where I may eat of the *Tree of Life*, and Live for ever; thro' Jeſus Chriſt, I offer up theſe Praiſes to thee the Father, to whom be Glory for ever. *Amen.*

IX. *A* PRAYER *for the uſe of a* SON, *or* DAUGHTER *of a Religious Family.*

EVer bleſſed, moſt good and gracious God; my God, and my Father in Chriſt Jeſus; Thou haſt *bound me to be thine* by a Courſe of Innumerable Mercies and Bleſſings. In all humble Thankfulneſs I fall down on my Knees before thee, adoring thy Creating *Skill* and Providential *Care* employ'd about me. When I *look over* my *whole Being*, and ſee what a Creature I am, how fearfully and wonderfully I am made, what noble Powers I poſſeſs, I reverence the Hand which made me.

And when I *review* the ſtate of my Birth, and every ſcene of Life ſince, with the Uninterrupted Train of Favours I have enjoy'd, pertaining both to this Life and a better, I am ſtruck with Wonder, that ſo inconſiderable and worthleſs a Sinner ſhould be the Object of ſo much Care.

When I *look round me*, I ſee numberleſs Children born of, and bred up under Parents as *Ignorant* and as *wicked* as ſo many Pagans, where they ſee and hear nothing but the horrid ſhapes of Sin, and the ſounds of Impiety. I pity the Lot of theſe poor Creatures, brought forth and brought up in the Habitations of Darkneſs, where are no marks of the Fear of God, no means of coming to the knowledge of Chriſt. How unſearchable are thy Judgments, O God, thy ways are paſt finding out.

How

How Senſibly ſhould my Heart be affected with my *own Happy State*! Why was not I made a deformed Toad, or a contemptible Worm? Why not ſtifled in the Womb, or ſtrangled in the Birth? Why did the Knees prevent me, and the Breaſts give me Suck? I might have been a Mis-ſhapen Monſter, or a Thoughtleſs Idiot; Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, I am what I am. I might have fallen into the Lot of one of yonder untaught wicked Children, but in thy Love and Mercy thou haſt ordained better for me.

How happy haſt thou made me in the Bleſſings of my Birth and Education! My Parents firſt great Care was to Dedicate me to thee; and *I am witneſs* how religiouſly they have kept their Vows then made on my behalf; may I not be a witneſs *againſt my ſelf*; I have *ſeen* nothing in my Father's Houſe but the daily images of Love, Truth, Righteouſneſs, Peace, Goodneſs appearing in all their Behaviour. How *early* was I taught to know thee, my Creator; what *Pains* have my Parents taken to make me Wiſe and Holy! How affectionately has my *good Father* pray'd for me many a time, and how Solicitous has my *tender Mother* been for my welfare in both Worlds; What an *Example* have they been before me, and how numerous *Advantages* have flowed to me through their Miniſtry and Love.

I am under an everlaſting Debt of Praiſe and Gratitude to thee, O Great Ruler of the World, and Lover of Souls: for all this Grace. I cannot *Sin* at a cheap rate under ſuch Light, nor can I eaſily *Periſh* amidſt ſo much mercy.

Pardon, O God, my Ingratitude, and the ill returns I have made both to thee and them: And enable and incline me to conform more to the ſpirit and life of *my Dear Lord*, whom my Parents

and

and Miniſters have ſo often ſet before me as my *Chief Pattern*: O that I could more reſemble his unſpotted Purity, his condeſcending Humility, his tender Charity, his Mildneſs, and Prudence, his Truſt in God, and Reſignation to the Divine Will, his Forgiveneſs of Enemies, his Patience under Reproach and Pain, his Peaceable and Contented Spirit, his Acknowledging thee in all things, and ever Seeking thy Honour. X. Pattern.

Make me ſo in love with theſe divine Virtues, that the image of them may be more and more form'd in my Heart; and keep me under ſuch a religious ſenſe of things, that I may paſs through the Future Periods of my Life in a never-ceaſing *Love to thee*, and in a Holy Compoſure and Tranquility of mind ariſing from a ſenſe of *thy Love to me*, till I come to live with thee, and with the Spirits of all good Men, in the preſence of Jeſus Chriſt, my great and only Mediator, to whom be aſcribed the Glory of his Mediatorſhip, now and for ever. *Amen.*

X. *A* PRAYER *fitted to the Caſe of the* SON *or* DAUGHTER *of a Wicked Family*, under CONVICTION.

Great and Juſt God, I was conceived in Sin, and brought forth in Iniquity, and have been bred up in the *Tents of Wickedneſs*, where God was not known and worſhipped, where Chriſt was not named: I Lament my unhappy Lot, but *I aſcribe Righteouſneſs to my Maker*, who cannot wrong any of his Creatures, that they ſhou'd *enter into Judgment* with thee; *far be it from God*, the infinitely great and good God, that he ſhou'd *do Wickedneſs*, and from the *Almighty*, that he ſhou'd *commit Iniquity*. *Job.* 34. 10. 23. Wkd. Parentage

I might have been brought forth and train'd up in a worſe place, and under more diſadvantages; nor have I attended as I ought to the ſeveral *kind Notices* God has many times and many ways given me, in order to lead me out of Darkneſs into Light.

But at Length the Kindneſs and Love of God my Saviour has appeâred wonderfully to me; Thou haſt pitied a periſhing Sinner and bid me live; thou haſt broke in upon *my dark Mind* with light, thy love has open'd and conquered *my Heart*; thou haſt raiſed me up to glorious *Hopes* by Jeſus Chriſt, and directed my *Thoughts* immediatly to thy ſelf.

I bleſs thee, with all my Soul, for this ſurpriſing grace, that *I a Branch of a Dead Tree* ſhou'd be grafted into the *True Vine*, taken from *the Waſte* and planted in the *Garden of the Lord*; How marvellous ſhou'd this be in my Eyes! I find I am not the ſame I was a few Months ago; I hope thou haſt begun in me a ſaving change, O leave not the Work unfiniſhed.

I bleſs God I ever ſaw the Face, and was brought into the acquaintance of **Him* whom thou haſt made thy inſtrument for my Everlaſting good; Employ the ſame, or other methods as inſtruments to confirm me in a Sincere and Faithfull Obedience to thee all my days. And I beg, O gracious God, that I or ſome other hand, may become a bleſſed means of reforming and ſaving the Family I ſprung from: Shew mercy to my poor blind Parents, pity my Brothers and Siſters in their wretched condition of Blindneſs, Sin

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**Here you may name* Maſter, Miſtriſs, Miniſter, Companion, Sermon, Book — *or whatever God has made a means of Conviction.*

Sin and Death; find out a way for their Eſcape, that they may not go on in Ignorance and Guilt, and periſh for ever. Give me a tender concern for their everlaſting welfare, and move me to do all I am able to promote it, in teſtimony of the thankful ſenſe I have of thine adorable Grace ſhewed to my ſelf.

Self-dedic.

And now, O God, the Fountain of Grace, and the Father of Spirits, I do this day dedicate my ſelf to thy ſervice, and beg thine acceptance of me; with a *Penitent Heart* I confeſs all my paſt Sin and Folly; with *Trembling* I look back on my paſt danger; and with *Shame* conſider what a Stupid, Senſeleſs Creature I have been; but as thou haſt found me when *I ſought thee not*, my hope is in the ſame Everlaſting ſpring of Grace, that thou wilt not refuſe me, now *I ſeek thee.*

As thou haſt born with me in wonderful patience, during my time of Ignorance and Rebellion; now *I return* to thee, reject me not; I deſire Mercy on no other but *Goſpel Terms*, that I forſake all my Iniquity, and live Soberly, Righteouſly and Godly hereafter; and I pray to be ſettled in this *Holy Diſpoſition*, that I may never forfeit *thy Friendſhip*, nor break off from *thy Service.*

Cheriſh in me every *Sincere Motion* toward thy ſelf, and fill me with Joy and Thankfulneſs for thine infinite Grace in ſending down Chriſt Jeſus into the World to ſave ſuch a Sinner as I am; thy Love is ſtrangely great, it paſſeth all my Comprehenſion; it conſtrains me to be thine.

And as with *Deliberation* of thought, and full *Conſent* of Will and Heart, I offer my ſelf to thee, I beg I may never contradict this my Act and Deed, nor in *Practiſe* diſown and deny theſe *Profeſſions.*

As I proteſt againſt, and in my ſerious Judgment condemn every Sin, preſerve in me a conſtant Remembrance of my Obligation and Covenant, and at *what a coſtly rate* I was redeemed from Iniquity, that I may never Sin more.

I dare not *ask Pardon*, but on condition of a new life; I dare not *hope for Immortality*, but by a ſteadfaſt continuance in well doing; I beg therefore that the Holy Affection and Diſpoſition thou haſt wrought in me, may prove a *new Nature* in me, and be my *conſtant Temper*, that my whole practiſe may be ſerious, and my whole life fill'd up with Actions of chearful Obedience to thee my God.

Aſſiſt my daily converſes with thy ſelf, that I may always go out of thy Preſence with a *greater Reliſh* of Piety, and a mind *more bent* towards Heavenly Objects. Keep me in the *Right Mind* into which I am brought, may I always be guided by *thy will*, and governed by *thy Spirit*, and place my Happineſs in *thy Favour*, whoſe deſign in all thy Revelations is, to make us Happy, by making us Holy.

And having kept me from *Backſliding*, and having delivered me from every *Snare*, and every *Evil Work*, preſerve me to thy Heavenly Kingdom, through Jeſus Chriſt, the great Shepherd of the Sheep, who through the Blood of the Everlaſting Covenant is Riſen and Aſcended to be our perpetual Advocate Above, To whom be Glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

XI. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUTH *at* SCHOOL.

GReat God! thou Fountain of all Wiſdom and Knowledge, I am a poor, empty, ignorant

norant Creature, who come to thee to be *made Wiſe* now in the Days of my Youth, that I may lay in a good Foundation againſt Time to come.

And ſeeing my *Father has put me under Tutors and Governours to direct and aſſiſt my Studies, and to overlook and guard my Ways, open thou my Mind, enlarge my Underſtanding, that I may take in *the Beginnings* of Knowledge; Make me a *Lover of Truth* and *Wiſdom*, and of all the means for finding this Treaſure; Make me attentive to my Teachers, and very willing to be taught, and cauſe me to make that deſirable Progreſs in Learning whatever is uſeful, which ſhall anſwer the Care and Love of my Parents.

* Parents have

When I am out of my Father's Houſe and Sight, may I be the Care of my great Father in Heaven, and behave as always ſeen by thee; Be thou my continual Friend, and proſper all my Endeavours.

In *reading thy Scriptures* open my *Eyes* to See and underſtand the Wonders revealed there; Incline my *Heart* to love my Bible, which reveals thy Love to me in Chriſt; And bend my *Will* to do all thy Pleaſure; Make me Thankful I ever became acquainted with that *Bleſſed Book*.

Keep me from mis-ſpending my Thoughts and Time in reading *Idle and Fooliſh Books*, but may I delight chiefly in ſuch Books as teach me the beſt Knowledge, and which direct me beſt in a Virtuous Life.

Keep me from abuſing *my Pen*, and defiling my Hand in Writing uſeleſs and Hurtful Stuff, which will corrupt my Fancy, and ſpoil my Reliſh of better Things.

And may my skill *in Arithmetick* be devoted to the Numbering my Sins, my Mercies, my Days, in the moſt profitable Manner. I pray

I pray I may never take Pleaſure in Filthy and Impure *Songs*, but rather make Sacred and Edifying Hymns my Joy, and the Employment of my *Tongue*; Awake my Glory! Awake to Sing God's Praiſe!

Diverſions

Reſtrain me from the Love of *hurtful Sports*, and from mis-ſpending an Exceſs of Time in *lawful ones*; May all my Diverſions be innocent and uſeful, and tend to the Health of my Body, and to refreſh my Mind, and fit me for cloſer Studies.

Incline me, O God to chooſe the moſt Sober and Virtuous Youths for my *Companions*, both at Study and at Play, as far as I am able; And may I never chooſe wicked Play-Fellows, leſt I learn their ways, and periſh with them.

As I am *growing up* every Year, in *Bodily Stature*, make me deſirous after *inward Growth* in all Wiſdom and Goodneſs, that my Soul may be in Health, and Proſper as my Body doth.

Make me *Loving* and Peaceful amongſt my School-Fellows, may I never hurt or injure any of them, but be always ready to do them good.

Succeed *my Maſter* in all his Labours, protect and bleſs our School; preſerve me in all my ways, coming from and returning to my Father's Houſe.

Communicate to me that true Knowledge and Grace which ſhall raiſe me above a Fondneſs for *Fine Cloths*, or any Childiſh Vanities; And make me thankful I have Parents, who provide for me Books, Cloathing, Fuel, Teaching, and many other good things, which numbers of Children want.

Schools.

I pray God wou'd Mercifully ſpare my Father and Mother, take Care of my Brothers *&c.* —— And bleſs all Schools where Youth are train'd up in Learning and Piety, that great

great Numbers may be ſent forth to adorn and improve the Nation by their Labours and Example, that Chriſtian Knowledge may ſpread and Religion grow, and God in all things be Glorified, through Jeſus Chriſt, To whom be Glory for ever. *Amen.*

XII. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUTH *preparing to go into an Apprenticeſhip.*

GReat God! Thou art the Supreme Lord of the World, the Governour of all Affairs, and the Diſpoſer of all the Families of the Earth, who canſt never *err* in any thing thou doſt, nor *fail* in any thing thou deſigneſt; To thee I come to ask Direction for my ſelf and my Father and Friends as to my future Diſpoſal. I am going out into a wide and wicked World, where innumerable Snares will ſurround me, in the midſt of which I cannot be *Safe* a moment without thy Protection, nor *Succeed* in any Buſineſs without thy Bleſſing.

Under the Influence of this Belief I wou'd *truſt in the Lord* with all my Heart, and not lean to my own Underſtanding. In all my ways I deſire to acknowledge God, and hope he will direct my Paths.

Impart unto me, O Father, *that Wiſdom* which ſhall preſerve me, and *that Diſcretion* which ſhall keep me wherever I go. In all Dangers, and in all Places I would commit my ſelf and my works to the Lord.

It is *not in Man*, much leſs in me, who am a Child, to direct my own way, but I hope that through thy Wiſe and Good Providence, which is over all thy Works, I ſhall be diſpoſed of into *a Family* where God is known and ſerved,

ſerved, and where I may enjoy the happy Liberty of retiring every Day a little from the Thoughts and Buſineſs of this World to converſe with thee, my Heavenly Father.

I lament my paſt neglects, and my undervaluing the Advantages of my Father's Houſe, and reſolve with divine Aſſiſtance, to make a wiſer uſe of coming Time.

I beg I may meet with *Companions* who will be helpful to me in the ways of Virtue, and never chooſe to keep Company with Fooliſh and Wicked Youths, who wou'd tempt me to ruin my Soul.

Lead me into the Choice of ſuch *Buſineſs* as will beſt fit my Capacity, my Temper, and my Strength, and in the management of which, I may beſt ſerve my Generation according to thy will.

Make me ſerious in attending the *Miniſtry* under which I ſhall be placed, and God Grant that from time to time I may hear ſuch a word as ſhall do my Soul good, and tend to my Salvation.

As to *whatever ſhall befal me* during the Time of my Apprenticeſhip, I ſubmit myſelf to thine infinite Wiſdom and Goodneſs, without whoſe notice and will, not the *ſmalleſt Creature* falls to the ground and periſhes, and who, I truſt, wilt never forſake any of *thy Children.*

But wherever I am placed, I beg, through Chriſt, to be indued with that Conſideration, Integrity and Diligence, that I may acquit my ſelf a Faithful Servant to my *Earthly Maſter*, and never, by any Temptation, be drawn to do him the leaſt wrong.

Amongſt the *whole Family*, and in all Company, may I behave with ſuch Innocence and Love, Wiſdom and Prudence, as to obtain Favour in the ſight of God and Man.

I owe

I owe my ſelf to thee, O God, as I am *thy Creature*, and as I am *a Chriſtian*, and deſire to ſerve thee according to the Goſpel of thy Son; for whom I bleſs thee with all my Soul: As he was ſent down to be my Teacher Example and Saviour, may I grow more and more *like him*, be kept up, by *his Word*, in a Serious Frame of Mind, and be aſſiſted, by *his Spirit*, under all my Weakneſſes and Negligence, and inſpired with the beſt Inclinations and Thoughts, and led into a Life of Obedience, Peace and Joy, that I may at laſt receive that Approbation of my Great Maſter "Well done, good and faithful Servant, thon haſt been faithful over a few Things, now will I make thee Ruler over many things, enter into the Joy of thy Lord." Which I beg through him who loved me and died for me, to whom be Glory for ever and ever. *Amen*,

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XIII. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Man in his Apprenticeſhip*,

O Moſt merciful Father, moſt wiſe Governour, and righteous Judge of the World! Thou haſt made *of one Blood* all Nations who dwell on the Face of the whole Earth. They are all *one great Family*, under thine Eye and Care, and equally thine Off-ſpring: Thou determineſt *their Times*, and appointeſt the Bounds of *their Habitation*; And as thou *Knoweſt how* to order all Things wiſely, ſo thou *haſt promiſed* to order all for the Beſt to thy own Children who Love and ſerve thee.

With Thankfulneſs I acknowledge thou haſt already *done* many great and gracious Things for me, and haſt *made me hope* for more; I wou'd

call upon all the Powers of my Soul to *Reverence* thy Majeſty and Greatneſs, to *Submit* to thy Juſt Dominion, to *Adore* thine Unſearchable Wiſdom, to *Love* thine Infinite Goodneſs, to *Truſt* in thy Univerſal Providence, to *Acquieſe in* thy Diſpoſals, and to *Obey* all thy Commands.

As thou art too Great to delight in hurting or grieving any of thy Creatures, I hope it is a Diſpoſition of Wiſdom and Goodneſs that I am *Planted here*; And that *this Settlement* for a few Years will, if I am not wanting to my ſelf, tend to my future Advantage.

As *I am Bound*, may I not grow uneaſy with my Bonds, and impatient *to be Free*; but ſet my ſelf with all Fidelity and Chearfulneſs to diſcharge the Duties of my new Station, that when the time of Freedom comes, I may leave it with a *good Conſcience*, and receive from Others a *good Teſtimony* in my Behalf.

Though I have not all the Indulgencies and Advantages of my Father's Houſe; help me to be thankful my Bleſſings are ſo many, and my Hardſhips ſo few.

It is my great Grief ſo much of my Time hath *run Waſte*, when I ſhou'd have been laying in a Fund of Thoughtfulneſs, Wiſdom, and Grace to prepare me for Trials and Difficulties.

But I hope thy Gracious Aſſiſtance, O Bountiful God! will be ſufficient for me; I beg of thee, who never art weary of doing good, that I may in all Buſineſs be found Faithful, and cauſe my *Maſter's Buſineſs* to proſper in my Hand; By a Wiſe, an In-offenſive, a Sweet and Kind Temper and Behaviour may I win the Love *of all the Houſe*; and by the Practiſe of Truth, Righteouſneſs, Goodneſs, Humility, and all the Branches of a Holy Life may I bring down the Bleſſing

ſing of God upon *my Self*; Make *me* a Bleſſing to this Family, and *the Family* a Bleſſing to me: Incline the Heart of my Maſter at all times to treat me with Juſtice and Kindneſs.

Preſerve me from the Temptations and Dangers which attend my Station and Company, and make me a Companion of thoſe who fear thy Name,

Under a firm Belief of thy Univerſal Preſence, I commend to thee *my Father's Houſe*; I bleſs thee, O God, for all the *Mercies* I enjoy'd there; and beg that all the *Guilt* I there contracted, all my Idleneſs, Diſobedience, Wilfulneſs, and Refuſing of Inſtruction, may be blotted out: May the Family be a Seat of Religion, and my Father and Mother &c.— be perpetually thy Care.

Dwell, I beſeech thee, in *this Houſe*, where my Lot is caſt; I beg I may at all times contribute my poor Share to bring down thy gracious Preſence under this Roof.

Give moderate Succeſs to all our Labours, and while I am buſy in gaining *the Arts of the preſent Life*, may I not neglect the Art of preparing for Life eternal. Lift up my *Thoughts* to Heaven; Sanctify my *Underſtanding*, that I may know God and Jeſus Chriſt; rectify my *Judgment* of the worth of Things; purify all my *Affections*, that I may Love moſt the Nobleſt Objects; ſtrengthen my *Memory*, that I may remember the Precepts of Wiſdom I have learn'd; over-rule my *Will* to make Choice of the Beſt Part, which ſhall never be taken from me; help me ſo to govern my *Senſes* and *Appetites*, that they may none of them be Inſtruments of Sin; and ſo to order my *Converſation*, as to adorn the Doctrine of God my Saviour by all my Actions.

Fit me, O Father for bearing with ſubmiſſion all *Difficulties* and Croſſes, and aſſiſt me to value and improve all *Advantages* for doing well now and for ever.

May I never grow weary of *Converſing* with thee, or of *doing good to Others*, but perſevere in Hope of Eternal Life, which Chriſt my Righteous Judge will give to all thoſe who hope for his Appearing. In whoſe Name and Words I farther pray. *Our Father, who art in Heaven* &c.

XIV. *The* PRAYER *of a Poor Servant*

O Moſt High, moſt Juſt and Wiſe God! Thou appointeſt the Lot and Condition of all Creatures; Thou makeſt *Poor*, and makeſt *Rich* at thy Pleaſure, *bringeſt low* ſome Families, and *raiſeſt up* Others; I adore thy wiſe Diſpoſals, I ſubmit to thy Righteous Hand, I believe thy kind Intentions, that we are all put into the State that is moſt ſuitable for us; I am now in one of the *loweſt Conditions* of Life, but not too Low for thy Regard; Look down, O Merciful Father, upon thy poor Creature ſeeking thy Favour.

As there is *no reſpect of Perſons* with thee, I hope ſo mean an Offering as I bring may be accepted with thee, who refuſeſt none who fear thee and work Righteouſneſs before thee.

I wou'd be far from complaining of my Condition, or encouraging an uneaſy and *murmuring Temper*, my State is good, far better than I deſerve; and I ask Forgiveneſs that I have been ſo Unthankful and Unfruitful amidſt Undeſerved Mercies.

I wou'd not envy Thoſe above me, but deſire quietly and humbly to bear my Yoke; and never attempt to *raiſe my Condition* any other way than by the Virtues of the Mind, and a ſuitable Behaviour in all my Actions; that I may be *Happy* in a *good State of Soul*, and by poſſeſſing the *Favour of God*, and the *Hope of Heaven*, even tho' I remain in this low State.

I deſire Grace chearfully to ſubmit to all thy wiſe Providence, who ſeeſt the State of a Servant, *fitter for me* than that of a *Maſter; give me *Health* and Strength of Body, *Wiſdom* and Uprightneſs of Heart and Mind, to fit me for all the Buſineſs of my Place; and a *truſt* in thy Fatherly Goodneſs to make all ſuitable Proviſion for me; and true *Thankfulneſs* my Burdens are ſo few and my Mercies ſo many. *Or Miſtreſs

And though my *Station on Earth* be never raiſed higher, yet may I by faithfully ſerving the Lord Chriſt, adorn the Religion of God my Saviour, and obtain an *Inheritance in Heaven.*

Give me, O my God, a penitent ſenſe of all my paſt neglects of Duty to *thy ſelf*, to my *Earthly *Maſter*, and to my *own Soul*; and cauſe me with greater Care, Diligence, and Integrity to fill up the Duties of my Place. *Or Miſtreſs

Keep me from all degrees of Unchaſtity, and every approach towards it; from all diſhoneſt Thoughts and Actions, and from Indecent Speeches; may I not ſerve Man with *Eye Service* only, but under a Belief of the All-ſeeing Eye of God, and in *Singleneſs of Heart*, ſtriving in all I do to pleaſe God.

Though my *Maſter be ſometimes froward, let not this provoke me to any paſſionate Tempers, or any unbecoming Anſwers, to any diſ-reſpectful Actions, or any neglect of my proper Duty. *Or Miſtreſs.

Let the Conſideration, that my Great and Dear Saviour, the Lord Jeſus, became *a Servant*, and made himſelf *poor* and of *no reputation* for my ſake, reconcile me to this, and to a worſe Condition, if God ſee fit to bring me into it.

Help me to redeem Time for Reading, Hearing and Prayer for the good of my precious Soul.

May I never keep idle and wicked Company, who would tempt me into Sin, but always avoid the very *appearance of Evil.*

Give me thy Holy Spirit, by whoſe Aſſiſtance I may ſo live now in this World, as to be *Rich* and *Happy* in Heaven for ever, through my Merciful Redeemer, whom I deſire to love and ſerve and live with, and to whom be Praiſe for his Redeeming Love, now and for ever. *Amen.*

XV. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG MAN *ſetting up in Trade.*

O Moſt glorious God, the High Poſſeſſor of Heaven, whoſe *Greatneſs* is above all our Thoughts, whoſe *Goodneſs* has no Bounds, but what thy Wiſdom gives to it, and whoſe unerring *Providence* is over all thy Works! In a full perſwaſion of thine infinite Charity and Kindneſs to Sinners I make my ſupplication to thee.

I am now entering on *a new Period of Life*, and a new and important *Scene of Buſineſs*; I ſee a Thouſand Dangers and Difficulties on every ſide me, and ſhould be afraid of venturing one ſtep into the World, had I not a Truſt in God, whoſe Power and Law is the Security of all good Men, and who haſt all Hearts, and all Succeſs in thine own Hands.

I commit

I commit *my All* in the World to thee, O Father in Heaven; I own it is not in my power to *get Wealth*, and I leave it to thy Wiſdom what Meaſures of Succeſs to give me, begging I may ſtand prepar'd for *the Beſt and the Worſt* that may befal me in Life; that I may neither grow Proud, Vain, and Worldly-Minded by Proſperity, nor Dejected and Fretful under Adverſity.

Keep up in my Heart an Habitual Senſe of the *Uncertainty* of this World's Enjoyments, and how unfit they are to be made my Chief Good; I hope I ſhall never count them ſo, nor ſo eagerly *Seek* them, dearly *Love* them, or ſo *ill bear* the loſs of them, as if they were my All.

If thou pleaſeſt to proſper my juſt and worthy Deſigns (and God forbid I ſhould ever form any other) and give me a Comfortable Share of the good Things of Life, it is my purpoſe *to Conſecrate my Gains unto the Lord*, to *Honour God with my Subſtance*, to uſe the World as a World *paſſing away*, and ſo expend my Riches as to prepare for my ſelf *Everlaſting Habitations*.

I appeal to thee, O God, who knoweſt my Heart, that I deſire to ſet out in the World upon Principles of Truth and Integrity, Diligence and Fidelity, Truſt in God, Good-will to Mankind, and Charity towards all whom it is in my power to Help.

Cheriſh, O my God, theſe little and *young Beginnings* of Grace and Goodneſs in me, and may I conſtantly endeavour after larger Meaſures, which may for ever ſecure me from Meddling with any *Unrighteous Gains*, from all Lying, Fraud, and every Vile Unworthy Art,

However I am dealt with by others, let that *Uprightneſs*, in which thou haſt Pleaſure, preſerve me from returning Evil for Evil.

Fortify

Fortify my Breaſt with all Chriſtian Virtue, that I may receive Affronts, Injuries and all ſorts of unkind or unfair Uſage from a wicked World, with a wiſe and calm Temper.

Though I muſt Converſe with all ſorts, may the *Companions of my Choice* be Wiſe and Sober; And when I am led by Buſineſs into worſe Company, Enable me to reſiſt the Temptations I ſhall there meet with, and to be an Example of a ſtrict and regular Behaviour. Preſerve me from all Degrees of Intemperance, from all impure Ideas, all unchaſte Deſires, and every approach to Sin.

Call up my *beſt Affections* towards thy ſelf, that whenever Sickneſs and Death come, they may never find me in a Worldly Mind, or overcharged with the Cares of this Life.

Diſpoſe me at all times to remember I *have a Soul*, redeem'd by the Blood of Chriſt, which deſerves my chief Care; in order to ſecure which, may I be chiefly Studious to pleaſe thee, my God, in all the Actions of an Innocent, Uſeful, Holy Life; that having ſerved God in Juſtice and Charity, in Temperance and Sobriety, in Meekneſs and Humility, in Patience and Contentedneſs, and in Continual Praiſes and Thankſgivings, I may at laſt find thy gracious Acceptance.

I Lament all the Vanities and Follies of my Childhood and Youth; I beg Forgiveneſs of my paſt Sins, that I may carry my old Guilt with me no longer. Make me more watchful in future Life, and in the way of Repentance and Sincere Obedience, may I find Mercy now, and in the Day of our Lord Jeſus. Now unto him who is of Power to eſtabliſh me, according to the Goſpel of Jeſus Chriſt, to God only wiſe be Glory through Jeſus Chriſt for ever. *Amen.*

XVI.

XVI. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Perſon going, or upon a Journey.*

O Bleſſed God! Thou lookeſt down from Heaven and beholdeſt the Sons of Men, from the Place of thy Habitation, Thou conſidereſt all the Inhabitants of the Earth: No Creature is ever out of thy ſight, who art alike preſent in all Places, filling Heaven and Earth with thy Glory: Though thou haſt the Care of the whole Univerſe thou fainteſt not, neither art weary; It is as eaſy for thee, the infinite Creator and Governour of all Things to watch over and provide for all the World, as if thou hadſt but one Creature to take Care of.

To thee, therefore, with Confidence and Hope, I commit and commend my ſelf, begging a Share in thy good Providence during the whole Journey * I have in View. { * *Or I am enter'd upon.*

As I have often, and I hope Sincerely made an Oblation of my ſelf to thee, I do now renew that Dedication of my whole ſelf, Body, Soul and Spirit, to be both the *Object of thy Care and thy Servant* for ever.

And as thou haſt been my continual Preſerver hitherto, to the ſame merciful Providence of my Heavenly Father I now again reſign *my whole Intereſt*, my Perſon, my Buſineſs, my Friends, begging thou wilt be my Shield, my Defence, my exceeding great Reward. May I Travel under the Shadow of the Almighty, and under the Miniſterial Care of good Angels, that no Evil may happen to me. I truſt my ſelf with thee, whoſe *Power*, and whoſe *Eye* are every where, for Protection Night and Day. I am ſenſible *it is not in Man to direct his own Steps*, but I hope Thou, who over-ruleſt the Motions and Inclinations of all Creatures, wilt direct me in

the way that I ſhould go, that I may fall into no wicked Hands, nor become a Prey to Men of Injuſtice and Violence; Yet if this ſhould be my Lot, and that Harm befal *my Body*, and I loſe any of my Worldly Subſtance, keep, I pray thee, *my Soul* from Sin at preſent, and ſave it in the Day of the Lord Jeſus; nor let the Unmerciful Dealings of *Others*, hinder *me* from delighting in Mercy, which is ſo much thy Delight. Make me *Submiſſive* to all thy Fatherly Convictions *ready to forgive* Injuries, and *unready to ſeek Revenge* for any Affronts I may meet with.

As I hope my *Intentions* in this Journey, and in all Buſineſs, are ſincerely upright, may I alſo be ſtrictly Juſt and Equal in all my *Actions*, yea may it be the Joy of my Soul to be Righteous, as thou, Lord, art Righteous, Merciful, as thou art Merciful, and Holy, as thou art Holy.

And in order, the better to perform every Duty in every Time and Place, enable me chearfully to deny my Senſes and Appetites of all Sinful Gratifications, and to be all the Day long under the Government of Principles of Truth and Virtue, Reaſon and Religion. Aſſiſt me in a wiſe and pious Manner to improve all Occurrences in my way; and preſerve me from Company which may be any way injurious to me; but if I fall into Looſe and Vicious Company, may I be ſo far from *Conforming* to their wicked Cuſtoms, as rather by an innocent Behaviour and words of Wiſdom and Sobriety to *reprove* them.

As *I am* ever under thine Eye, I beg I may *Live* ever as in thy Sight, poſſeſſing my Soul with an Habitual ſenſe of thy Preſence, and counting my ſelf happy in nothing but thy Care,

Care, thy Love and Favour, and the ſolid *rational* Hope of eternal Life.

And the more ſenſible I am of the Frailty of *my Body* and the Uncertainty of all *Enjoyments*, and all *Succeſſes* here, I deſire to be the more Solicitous about *my Soul*, to be enrich'd with all thoſe Virtues and Graces, which will make my *Fruit* to be unto Holineſs, and my *End* everlaſting Life.

In Caſe all Things ſhou'd proſper well with me, that I be in Health and my Affairs proſper, yet ſuffer not my Soul to *ſink deep* into the Love of this World; but raiſe up my Heart to love and ſeek thoſe great Poſſeſſions Chriſt my Lord, has purchaſed, which will yeild eternal Pleaſure.

In every Station of Life may I be ſo wiſe as to prepare for my ſelf *Bags* that wax not old, *Treaſures* that endure, and *Friends* who never die; and indue my Soul with all thoſe divine Qualities which will fit me for that Company above, who will receive me into everlaſting Habitations, where I ſhall ever be with my Maſter and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, to whom be Glory for ever. *Amen.*

XVII. *The Thankſgiving* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Perſon returning Home from a* JOURNEY.

O Almighty and moſt Merciful God! who art daily loading Men with Mercies; Thou haſt already given me innumerable Pledges of thy Care and Love through all my Life paſt, and more particularly in this my laſt Journey, which I pray, may be ſo many Arguments with me for a future *Truſt* in thee, and a ſubmiſſive

Waiting on all the Iſſues of thy wiſe and kind Providence, which is over all thy Creatures.

As thou broughteſt me at firſt into the World, thou haſt hitherto kept me in it, preſerving my Out-goings and my Comings-in, and guarding my Riſings-up and my Lying-down. In an humble and thankful Senſe of all thy Favour, and eſpecially of thy Fatherly Care over me ever ſince I went out from my Father's Houſe, to this moment, I kneel down before thee, and offer my ſelf to thee, as thy devoted Servant.

In every Place, by Day and by Night thy *Hand* has covered me, thy Power defended me, thy *Wiſdom* directed me, thy *Goodneſs* provided for me, and thy *Truth* upheld me: Adored be thy Majeſty for all theſe Inſtances of a kind Providence about me; *What is Man*, that *Thou* ſhouldſt be thus mindful of him? What am I, that *thy Loving Kindneſs* ſhou'd viſit me every Morning, and *thy Faithfulneſs* every Evening O that I cou'd, in an acceptable Manner, *Praiſe the Lord* for his Goodneſs, and for his wonderful works of Power and Grace to the Children of Men.

What ſhall *I render unto the Lord* for all his Benefits; that I have been preſerved in Safety and Health, have ſeen many of my Friends in Comfort, had reaſonable Succeſs in my Affairs, and am return'd in Peace to this Houſe.

May a ſenſe of all theſe and many other Mercies excite me to *Love* and to *good Works*, that I may thus teſtify my Praiſe to God, who *needs not* my Service, by kindneſs to Objects who *do need* it; that by thus bearing *Fruit unto God*, I may walk the reſt of my Days chearfully in hope that God has *accepted* me. God forbid, that the ſtated uninterrupted Courſe of thy Mercies ſhou'd make me *leſs Senſible* how much I am indebted to thee; or that I ſhou'd the *Seldomer* remember

ber thee, becauſe thou art *always* mindful of me.

I might have *Periſhed in the way* by wicked Hands, or by a Fall from my Horſe; I might have been confined in an Inn amongſt Strangers, the Terror of Pain or of Death might have been upon me at this moment; but God has been better to me than my Deſerts; I am return'd to my Habitation, my ſtated Buſineſs, my Friends in Comfort, Bleſſed be thy Name for ever and ever.

Aſſiſt me, O God of my Life, and Father of my Mercies! to *walk ſuitably* to theſe Obligations; As I receive thy Mercies with a Thankful Heart, I deſire to uſe them Soberly and Wiſely to thy Glory.

Prepare me to meet all future *Croſſes*, and to bear all Coming *Burdens* ordained for me; make me Juſt in all my *Dealings*, though ever ſo little: Innocent in all my *Diverſions*, Friendly in all *Converſation*, well pleaſed with the Succeſs of *my Companions*, and the Proſperity of *my Neighbours*, and deſirous of the Welfare of *all Men*; eſpecially that all Young and Old, Rich and Poor, may agree in Loving, Honouring, Magnifying, Serving God, and in doing good in the World.

I adore thee, O God, for all thy Benefits, and moſt of all for the *Grace which brought Salvation*, for the Manifeſtation of thy Son, and the bleſſed hope of Immortality, which he has given to Men by his Goſpel, and through his Death.

I wou'd be aſhamed I have Loved, Served, and Imitated my Lord *no more*, that in all Places, Buſineſs and Company I have *ſo little* ſought his Glory, and the Intereſt of that Religion he came to promote.

Pardon

Pardon all my paſt Sin, the Guilt I have contracted this Journey, either by Omiſſions or Commiſſions, and accept me as a Penitent, pardon'd Sinner in Chriſt Jeſus, who has redeemed me unto God by his Blood, through whom be given to thee, O Father, Praiſes and Thankſgivings Everlaſting. *Amen.*

XVIII. *The* PRAYER *of a* SON *whoſe* FATHER *is Dead.*

HEavenly Father! Thou art the *Father of the Fatherleſs*, and the *Helper of the Helpleſs*; To thee I come under a ſenſe of my deſolate Condition, begging thy Fatherly Care over me, and Goodneſs to me. Thou who takeſt Care of Birds, and Beaſts and Worms, neglect not me *thy Child*, whom thou haſt made in thy own Image; receive me into thy Arms, take me into thy Gracious Covenant as thy own Son; And now that my *Earthly Father* is dead and gone, be thou my Father, and grant me thy Protection; And, by a Bleſſing on my Serious Endeavours, communicate to me all that Wiſdom and Virtue, that Experience and Goodneſs which may enable me in ſome Meaſure to *ſupply my Father's Place.*

Make me a Comfort to my ſorrowful *Mother*, a Father to my younger *Brethren* and *Siſters*, a Bleſſing to the *Whole Family*, and the Joy of my *Friends.*

I am ſenſible of the *Dangers* of my State, the *Weakneſs* of my *Underſtanding*, the *Imperfection* of my Virtue, the *Difficulties* of Buſineſs; Let thy good Spirit be with me as a Spirit of Wiſdom, Counſel, Grace and Strength; Raiſe up, in thy good Providence, Friends to adviſe, direct and aſſiſt

aſſiſt us in all our Affairs; and grant that by a Modeſt, Humble, Affable, Induſtrious Temper and Behaviour, I may obtain the Favour of all good Men.

Thou, O Great Creator and Lord of the Univerſe, who giveſt the Beaſts their Food, and the young Ravens when they cry, and takeſt care of Sparrows, provide comfortable Food and Raiment and other good Things for me, for my Brothers——and the Whole Family; Pity theſe *Fatherleſs Children*, with thee may we all find Mercy. Give moderate Succeſs to all our Undertakings and Employments: And whether we have more or fewer of the *Comforts of Life*, may we all ſeek a Claim to the *Bleſſings of the Goſpel*, and have an everlaſting Portion in the Kingdom of God.

Make me *an Example* of all Chriſtian Duties and Virtues to my *Brothers* and *Siſters*; cauſe me to imitate the Goodneſs of *my Father*, Faithfully to ſerve my *Father's God*, and to contribute, by a tender Spirit, and a Dutiful Behaviour, to the Support and Comfort of my *Dear Mother*, whom I commit to thy Care.

And as we have had a large ſhare in thy *Goodneſs*, in the midſt of our Afflictions, I wou'd offer thee my humble Praiſes, and beg that I, and all our Houſe, may be kept from a *Murmuring Spirit* under a dark Diſpenſation.

Forgive the *Sins* of the Family, which may have provok'd thee to write *Bitter Things* againſt us; Help us to keep up thy Fear, and the Worſhip of thee amongſt us daily, as we are able; and cauſe us to live in that holy Friendſhip and Love together upon Earth, that we may meet our Father and one another in Heaven at laſt, through Jeſus Chriſt, who ſhed his Blood a Sacrifice for our Offences, and now ever Intercedes

cedes for us, To whom be the Glory of his Dying and Interceading Love, now and for ever. *Amen.* *

XIX. *The* PRAYER *of a* SON *or* DAUGHTER *whoſe* Parents *are Dead.*

BLeſſed Lord God! By thee, I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Thou art He who faſhionedſt me in the Womb, who breathedſt into me the Breath of Life, and madeſt me a living, rational, immortal Soul; Thou tookeſt me from my Mother's Belly, didſt feed me at her Breaſts, and I have been thy Care ever ſince.

And now, by thy wiſe and juſt Order, *Father and Mother have forſaken me*, and are gone into the Land of Darkneſs and the Shadow of Death, and will return to me no more; What ſhall I do, if thou alſo forſake me? But my Hope and Truſt is in thy Mercy and Goodneſs; Thou who haſt given *thy Son* Jeſus Chriſt to ſave me, and who haſt promiſed thy *Holy Spirit* to me, if I humbly ask his Help, wilt not, I hope deny me any *other* and *leſſer* Good Things thou ſeeſt fit for me.

Be thou better to me than an *Earthly Father* and *Mother* could be, I deſire to chooſe thee as my Father, and my chief Guardian; and thy Love and Favour as my beſt Portion, for whom have I *in Heaven* but thee, and what is there in all

* Note. *This Prayer may be eaſily ſo altered as to fit a* Daughter *or a* Son *who has* no Brother *or* no Siſter, *or is in other relative Circumſtances.*

all *the Earth* I can deſire beſides thee: As *Father* and *Mother* are fail'd and gone, ſo *this World* will all fail me 'ere long, what then will become of me, if God be not my God.

Raiſe up for me Inſtructors, Benefactors and Friends, who will faithfully guide my Youth, and direct my Thoughtleſs Steps.

I am deſolate, Lord look on me, and on all my poor *forſaken Brothers and Siſters*, ſupply all our Wants, relieve all our Miſeries out of thy rich Abundance.

May I be taught the *way to Heaven*, and how to ſerve thee in my Youth; May I never want Food or Raiment, or Houſe or Bed; but if I ever be in want, keep me from Envy or Fretfulneſs, from Temptations to Lie or Steal, from Quarrelling with thy Providence, and from the horrid Thoughts of Self-Deſtruction.

I wou'd place my Truſt in thee, my Heavenly Father, who ſeeſt *the Miſery I am in*; Touch the Hearts of ſome Chriſtians with Pity over me, and my poor Brothers, *&c.*——May their *Bowels* Yearn over us, and their *Hands* reach out ſome Help to us.

And for all thy Kindneſs to me, and to all our Family, by whomſoever convey'd, give me a ſenſible, thankful Heart; but eſpecially and above all, that there is a *rich* and *bleſſed Country*, purchaſed and prepared for me, and for all who love Chriſt, and wait for his Appearing: Make me a Partaker of thy gracious Help, that, by a ſober, diligent, contented, uſeful Life on Earth, I may grow ready for that better World above.

I beg a tender ſenſe of the Caſe of all others, in like Unhappy Circumſtances with my ſelf; Behold the Sighing of the *Poor*, hear the Cry of the *Needy*, Succour the *Fatherleſs*, the *Friendleſs*, and them who have no *Helper*.

Recompenſe thoſe who reach forth their Hand to the needy, who feed the hungry Soul, cloath the naked, and any way Adminiſter Comfort to the Deſtitute.

Whatever become of my *Body*, pity my precious *Soul*, fill it with the Knowledge and Love of thy ſelf, and with all Virtue, that after Poverty, Want and Pain upon Earth, I may not periſh for ever in Hell; but be taken into that World where there is no Sorrow and Crying, no Want, no Pain, no Sickneſs nor Dying any more for ever, through Jeſus Chriſt, my Redeemer and Advocate. *Amen.* *

XX. *A* PRAYER *for the uſe of a* YOUNG *Man in Company with other* YOUNG *Men.*

INfinitely Great and moſt Glorious God, the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, look down upon a few of *thy Young Servants*, met in the Name of thy Son, for our Mutual Improvement in Wiſdom and Virtue, by Converſation with thee and with each other.

But how ſhall ſuch imperfect, ſinful Creatures ſpeak unto thee, the High Poſſeſſor of Heaven and Earth, whoſe *Greatneſs* ſurpaſſes all our Thoughts, whoſe Holineſs aſtoniſhes the Angels, and whoſe *Juſtice* is, to thy Adverſaries, a conſuming Fire. Yet in regard thy *Goodneſs* is equal to thy Greatneſs, and thy *Compaſſions*, in Chriſt Jeſus, reach the meaneſt of thy Creatures, we

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* *This Prayer is adapted to Children of a Mean and Poor Condition, left without Father or Mother.*

we meet in Hope that with Eyes of Favour thou wilt behold a ſmall number of *Young Souls* proſtrate before thee, deſirous to be filled with ſuch an awful Apprehenſion of thy Majeſty, as will be a conſtant Preſervative from Sin, and Motive to Piety.

While others are meeting in vain and fooliſh Sports, or to make Proviſion for their Luſts; we chooſe, from a ſenſe of Duty to thee our God, and from a regard to our true Intereſt, to meet, to read, to pray and ſing, and talk on edifying Subjects, and hope that God will *hearken and hear*, and record us in the *Book of his Remembrance* amongſt thoſe who *fear the Lord*, and *think upon his Name*, that *our Names* may at laſt appear upon the Heavenly Regiſter.

We all deſire to be thy Servants, and when we open our Eyes, and ſee the numerous *Obligations* we are under to be thine, we cannot refuſe thee our Hearts; we ſurrender to thy Dominion over us, we commit our ſelves to thoſe Arms of Care and Love which have been ſo long ſtretched out towards us, and reſolve to employ all our Powers in thy Service.

We magnify thy rich Grace for bearing with us ſo long in our Follies and *Rebellions*, waiting over us in our *Delays*, and finding means to make us Friends after ſo many unkind *Denials* on our Part: We hope, by thy repeated Importunities and affectionate Intreaties, thou haſt prevailed with every Heart here, to conſent *to be thine*, entirely thine.

It is our great Grief, we have any of us ſo long *refuſed* thy Call, and have ſo oft *offended* thee, ſince we knew thee; but having opened our Mouths to the Lord, and enter'd Covenant with God, we purpoſe never to *go back*, and pray thou wouldſt always keeps us in this reſolved Temper.

Be preſent with us, O God, in all our *Little Aſſemblings* together; Let a *Belief* in God, and a *Senſe* of thy All-ſeeing Eye over-awe us at Prayer; Let *Love of Truth* and *Right* direct all our Enquiries; and true *Friendlineſs* govern all our Converſation; that none of us may *envy* a Superior, or *deſpiſe* an Inferior, but love and rejoice in one another, as Members of the ſame Body, in which the *Head* cannot ſay to the *Feet*, "I have no need of you" much leſs the *Feet* to the *Head*, "I have no need of thee," Enlighten us more and more by Goſpel Revelations, and aſſiſt us in all our laudable Purſuits after Knowledge and a Chriſtian Temper.

Own us, Great Father! in our *diſtinct Capacities*; when we depart hence, and at other Times, continue in our Minds, the *holy Thoughts* we dwell upon here; Lift up our *pureſt Affections* to thy ſelf; Accompany us in all *our Ways* by thy wiſe Counſel; Free us from all inordinate *Cares* about this Life, and from all *Diſtruſt* of thy good Providence to do well for us, and from all *Temptations* into any indirect Courſes; Aſſiſt us all in the Great Arts of *Self-Furniture*, and *Self-Government*, Lead us into the beſt Method of improving our Minds and Hearts, and into all the Rules of wiſe *Conduct*.

Though the way of Religion and Righteouſneſs, of Truth and Goodneſs, of Virtue and Duty be a *narrow Way*; yet, bleſſed be God, it is a *fair way*, and *lies plain* before us all, and we beg we may all, and at all times walk in it; that by an in-offenſive, merciful, upright, humble Diſpoſition and Carriage, we may recommend the Truth as it is in Jeſus, and adorn our Chriſtian Profeſſion; and be the happy means of drawing other Youths into the Choice and Practiſe of the ways of Virtue.

And

And now we join in aſcribing Bleſſing, and Honour, and Praiſe to thee, O King of Grace, who haſt called us *out of Darkneſs* into *Marvelous Light*, by the Goſpel of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; And, from a Grateful Senſe of thine Infinite Mercies, we deſire to ſhew forth the Praiſes of our God and Redeemer, who hath called us; and to offer our ſelves to thee once again to be thy Servants for ever.

Pardon us, and accept us, as thy Sons in Chriſt Jeſus.

Now unto him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the Power that worketh in us, unto him be Glory in the Church, by Jeſus Chriſt, throughout all Ages, World without end. *Amen.*

XXI. *A* PRAYER *fitted to the Caſe of a* YOUNG *Perſon, under ſome good Impreſſions made by a Sermon, or other Means.*

INfinitely High and Holy God! thy *Greatneſs* tranſcends my utmoſt Comprehenſion, thy *Holineſs* ſhines brighter than the Sun, and has no Spot in it, thy *Goodneſs* ſpreads it ſelf farther than its Beams, thy *Knowledge* penetrates all Places and all Hearts, thy *Juſtice* keeps an inflexible Courſe, and cannot be bended or bribed, and though the World and all Things wax old, thou art *the ſame*, *Bleſſed* for ever in thy ſelf.

How ſhall I *appear* in the Preſence of ſo much Glory; How ſhall I a polluted, dying Worm *Speak* to thee, the immortal, the everlaſting Jehovah! How can I *order my Thoughts*, or *my Words* before the Judge of the whole Earth.

But

But the Unſearchable Riches of thy Grace manifeſted in Chriſt Jeſus to the whole loſt World, and to my Soul in particular, encourage me to come before thee; And I come to open and to *unburden my Heart* unto thee, who only canſt give me Eaſe.

What *a Word* of Light and Power, of Grace and Salvation have I this Day heard; What *a Meſſage* of wonderful Love haſt thou ſent me! It has awak'd my Sleepy Conſcience, it has touch'd my hard Heart, it has made ſuch Impreſſions on my Soul I never felt before: Surely God was in and with the Word, the Power of the Lord was with his Miniſter to direct him to ſhoot the Arrow at my Heart; I *feel it*, I *feel it* pierces me through; I bleſs God for this Word, and beg it may be Effectual, that my Goodneſs be not as the Morning Cloud, and the Early Dew, which ſoon paſſeth away.

I have been long in a wavering and *warping Temper*, undetermin'd whether to ſerve God or the World, to obey the Fleſh or the Spirit; but I find a Change through all the Powers of my Soul, I begin to ſee the Folly and Madneſs of a *Sinful Life*; in the Loweſt Proſtrations wou'd I humble my ſelf for my paſt Delays; mine Eyes are filled with Tears, and my Heart with Grief; that I ſhou'd ſo long forget thee, and be ſo Undutiful to thee. I am now almoſt reſolved to Sin no more, I am aſhamed I have ſinned ſo long; I bluſh to think how I have ſlighted my dear Saviour, who became *poor* to enrich me, who drank the *Bitter Cup*, to obtain for me the Cup of Salvation, who *died* that I might live; what a wretch have I been, to neglect ſo rich Goodneſs, ſo wonderful Love to me, and all Mankind.

Pardon, O God, this my Iniquity, through the Sacrifice of thy Son, which is of everlaſting Efficacy; And, by future Sermons, and more Influence of the Spirit of Chriſt, work in me an utter Abhorrence of Sin, that I may tread in its ſteps no more, and a firm Reſolution for Chriſt, Holineſs and Heaven, which no Temptations ſhall ever break.

Conform me to my bleſſed Lord, who now begins to appear glorious in mine Eyes; purge me by his Blood, and prepare me to go after him into the High and Holy Heavens.

Bleſſed God! Thou haſt begun, in a ſtrange Manner to open my Eyes; I ſee a Little of that Love of God to a periſhing World, which no Heart can fully comprehend: How ſurpriſing is thy Wiſdom and thy Grace, which has found out a way to manifeſt thy tender Pity to Sinners, without the leaſt ſuſpicion of approving or loving Sin; and to preſerve thy Sovereign Authority, and the Rights of thy Government, without deſtroying thoſe who had rebelled againſt it; And who haſt ſo diſpoſed the means of our Salvation, as by the ſame Method; both to Pardon and Sanctify us, reconcile and mend us, juſtify our Perſons, and cure our Hearts.

What am I, and what is the whole fall'n Race, that ſuch love ſhou'd be beſtow'd upon us, that the beloved *Son of God* ſhou'd come down and die for me; May I dread ſo ſad an Iſſue, as that ſuch precious Blood ſhou'd, as to me, be Spilt in Vain. To prevent which; I earneſtly beg, O God, thou wilt, at all times, preſerve in me a ſenſe of the great *Worth of my Soul.* for which the Son of God paid ſo dearly; and work in my Heart a great eſteem of that Purity, Righteouſneſs, Humility and Goodneſs, for the Reſtoring of which, he became our Teacher, our Atonement, and our Example.

As

As my paſt Sins ſtand all before me in black and dreadful Lines, may I ſee them all blotted out and croſſed by the Blood of Chriſt, upon thy own Terms of a penitent Heart and a new Life.

May I hereafter meet with many ſuch awakening *Or read } Diſcourſes, as I have lately *heard, which may finiſh the good Work begun in me, that I may never more go aſtray from thee.

I am a poor weak wandering Creature, good God, forſake me not under my Weakneſſes, Pity and Help me, Fix and Settle me in thy Service; may I fully and finally *break with Sin*, and all ſinful Company, and ſo ſincerely cloſe with thy offers in Chriſt, that nothing may ever ſeperate me from the love of God, which is in Chriſt Jeſus my Lord, who has loved me, and, I hope, waſhed me from my Sins, to whom be Glory for ever. *Amen.*

XXII. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Perſon under* Trouble of Mind.

ALmighty and moſt merciful God! Thou art more than the Life and Soul of the whole Creation, and art more to the *Soul*, than the Soul is to the Body; If thou *withdraw*, the Creature languiſhes; And if thou *frown*, it dies; for who can bear the *Diſpleaſure of God*, who can endure the Thoughts of an *angry Deity*.

O my God, I ſeek thee, but find thee not; thou hideſt thy Face, and I am troubled; a Cloud hangs over me, and I cannot ſee through it; I walk in Darkneſs, and have no Light; I pray, and receive no Anſwer from God; I read, but find no Comfort. Pity

Pity me, O Father, pity thy Child in Diſtreſs, no Hand can help me but thine. My *former Vanities* and Pleaſures are now miſerable Comforters; my *Sins* and *Follies* are my Tormentors; I fear I have *grieved thy Spirit*; and he is gone; Oh! ſuffer him not to take from me his Everlaſting Flight?

What ſhall I do, if God depart from me? I ſit in the Shadow of Death, I go mourning all the Day and in the Night find no Reſt? Thy Word, thy Providence, all ſeems dark to me: What will become of me, if thou depart yet farther from me.

O thou lover of Souls, ſhew Mercy to this poor miſerable Creature; forſake me not when all other help faileth; Send an *Interpreter* to me, one of a Thouſand, who ſhall ſhew me my Tranſgreſſion and my Sin; who ſhall open to me my Duty, and my way to Peace.

As thou haſt done much for me, been my Guide and Guard hitherto, through all my firſt Years; *Return* unto me, O God of my Salvation, grant me thy free Preſence, lift up thy Countenance upon me, and *I ſhall live*; A ſenſe of thy Favour will be Life, and thy Loving Kindneſs better than Life.

I hope, I value thy Love more than all the World, and it is my chief Trouble that I cannot find I love God, or delight in Chriſt; Remove the Ground of this my Trouble, by filling my Heart with Love *to thee*, and a delightful Senſe of thy Love *to me*.

Look upon me through thy Son, Thou who ſparedſt not thy *own Son*, but gave him up to die for me, wilt thou deny me, when I ſeek *his Love*, an Intereſt in *his Blood* and Sacrafice, a Claim to *his Purchaſe*, the Aid of *his Spirit*, and Light and Comfort of *his Word*.

But I have ſinned, I have ſinned againſt Heaven, and in thy Sight, all my Days have been Days of Vanity; I but *lately* begun to think in Earneſt about my Soul; And now I ſee a long and a black Roll of Sins, when *I look back*; if *I look up*, I ſee an angry God; if I *look forward*, I ſee a Fiery Pit; if *I look into thy Word*, I ſee nothing but thy Terrors againſt Chriſtleſs Sinners: *I think on God*, and am troubled, yet I cannot but think on thee; I dare not go from thee; I am told thou art a merciful God, ready to pardon, and who delighteſt not in the death of Sinners, but delighteſt in ſhewing Mercy.——Here, Lord, is an *Object of Mercy*, thy own Creature, thy own Child, *lying in Miſery*; Let thy Bowels yearn over me, ſupport my Trembling Heart, which is afraid of thy Judgments: reſtore me to thy Friendſhip, for I cannot live under thy Terrors; ſcatter thoſe Clouds, which cover me, that I may ſee thy Face; Comfort me with a Senſe of thy Favour; With Faith in thy Promiſes, with the influence of that great Truth, "That Jeſus Chriſt came into the World to ſave Sinners." Convince me thou art willing of Reconciliation, and that I ought no longer to harbour Thoughts injurious to thy Goodneſs and Grace. Stretch out then thy Hand, and touch my afflicted Spirit; Cure it, O God, cure it of all its Confuſions, and its unprofitable Dejection and Sadneſs; Appeaſe all the Tumults of my Breaſt, baniſh every groundleſs Fear; in the *Multitude of thy Thoughts* within me let *thy Comforts* delight my Soul: that I may no more *Judge raſhly* about my Everlaſting Condition, no more *Diſtruſt* thy Power, or thy Promiſe, thy Goodneſs, or thy Love.

Reſtore unto me the Joy of thy Salvation, that I may eat my Bread, and drink my Cup with

with a merry Heart, in hope that God has accepted me; That I may Sing, yea *Sing aloud of thy Righteouſneſs*, while here below, and join the bleſſed Company above, who reſt not Day or Night, ſaying "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, who was and is and art to come," and who worſhip him who liveth for ever and ever.

And after I am paſſed through the Preparations of Grace, and have ſerved thee Chearfully during thy good Pleaſure on Earth, take me to thoſe who are *redeemed unto God*, by the Blood of thy Son, out of every Nation, who are *made Kings*, and *Prieſts unto God*, who *Walk in White*, and have their *Father's Name on their Foreheads*, that I may join thoſe Thouſand times Ten Thouſand, and Thouſands of Thouſands, who are Singing aloud "Worthy is the Lamb, that "was Slain, to receive Honour, and Glory, and "Bleſſing;" and who give Bleſſing and Honour and Glory and Power unto him who ſitteth down upon the Throne, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

XXIII. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Perſon preparing for Communion at the* LORD'S Table.

EVer bleſſed Lord God, thou art crowned with thy own Glory and Majeſty, and happy for ever in thy own Perfections; If any of thy Creatures are bleſſed and happy it is in the Sight, the Enjoyment and Service of thee.

For my Part, I have too long liv'd at a Diſtance from thee, and have been in vain ſeeking *Happineſs* in the Objects of Senſe, and the Enjoyments of the World; but, under ſtrong

Conviction it is to be found only in thy Love and Favour, I now ſurrender my ſelf to thee; I chooſe thee as my God and Father, I yeild to all thy Pleaſure, and am at a Point to ſerve thee for ever; And I deſire to join my ſelf to thee, and to thy People in the Everlaſting Covenant, which is publiſhed in the Goſpel, and confirmed and ſealed at the Lord's Supper; by which thou conſenteſt to be my God and Portion in Chriſt Jeſus, and by which I conſent to be now and for ever thine.

Aſſiſt me, O my gracious God, in this *great Days Work*, that I may not deal falſely in thy Covenant, but may Vow, and perform unto the Lord my Vows.

Lift up my Mind from all theſe *Little Things* here below, which are ſo apt to turn away my Thoughts and Eyes from thee, and the Things thou haſt prepared for thoſe who love thee.

Keep up my Mind and Thoughts above on Chriſt and Heaven, till by ſerious and devout Contemplations I am become in love with Chriſt, and am reſolved to ſeek Heaven, though it ſhou'd be with the Loſs of all I have on Earth.

Chaſe away all Worldly Affections, that they may not bear me Company to thy Table; and fill my Spirit with a ſtrong habitual lively Senſe of thee, and of all my Obligations to thee.

I have *Reaſons* to bleſs, praiſe, admire, love and ſerve thee, which Angels have not; Thou haſt not only *made* me in thy own Image, capable of Knowing and Serving thee, but, to ſave me from periſhing for ever, thou haſt *Redeemed* me by thy Son, and *Created me anew* by thy Spirit, and opened to me a *new and living way* to Heaven; I beg, that with a Heart

a Heart full of Thankfulneſs and Praiſe I may enter thy Houſe, and go to thy Feaſt.

As I ſee and feel the bleſſed effects of thy Love, in giving thy Beloved Son to be my Heavenly Inſtructor, and my Atonement, I deſire to keep this Sacred Feaſt with *grateful Joy*; and with all Expreſſions of ſincere Thankfulneſs to commemorate my Lord's Sufferings, Death and Reſurrection, to rejoice in his Royal Powers, and to wait for his coming again in Glory.

What had become of me, and other loſt Sinners, if God had not pitied us, and Chriſt had not died for us; I had been an *Everlaſting Captive* to Sin, Satan and Death, if Chriſt had not deliver'd me; What can I do leſs than keep this Feaſt in *Remembrance of him*, which he appointed for this End, to keep the Memory of him in our Hearts, *in the Night wherein he was betray'd.*

Stir up in me, O mighty God, ſuch thankful *Acknowledgements* to thee, and to Jeſus Chriſt my Saviour, ſuch hearty *Reſolutions* to ſerve thee, ſuch earneſt *Deſires* to be more like thee, ſuch *Love*, *Delight* and *Joy* in doing thy will, that thereby my Soul may be raiſed up to that Place where Chriſt is, and that I may wait and prepare for a bleſſed Tranſlation there to be *with him*, where he is, to be *ever with him.*

O my good God! quicken my Soul to *Hear* thy Word with greater Reverence, to *ſing* thy Praiſes with greater Gladneſs, to *pray* with more Attention and better Affections than ever; And may I *Approach thy Table*, with that deep Humility, that ſenſe of my Unworthineſs; And receive the dear Pledges of my Lord's Love with that true Thankfulneſs, that may

prepare

pare me for the *Comforts of thy Houſe*, and the *Joys of thy Spirit*; that I may go from thy Table *refreſhed* with a ſenſe of Pardon, and the Hope of Eternal Life: and *Strengthened* in my Reſolutions to live a Life devoted more than ever to thy Service.

I bring thee the *poor Offering* of a Heart Young and Ignorant, Vain and Fooliſh; but I lay it at thine Altar, and hope, that, through the Sacrifice and Interceſſion of thy Son, thou wilt overlook all my Defects; and, by thy Word and Spirit, cure all my diſorders, and graciouſly accept me, ſuch as I am in and through the great Advocate of thy own Appointing: For of thee, and through thee, and to thee, are all Things; To whom be Glory for ever. *Amen.*

XXIV. *An Evening* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Perſon after Sacramental Communion.*

O My God, my King! how excellent is thy Name in all the Earth! how precious are thy Thoughts unto me, how great is the ſum of them!

Thou art Eternally to be praiſed for all thy Works of Wonder; the Variety, the Beauty, the Order of the *Viſible Creation* proclaim thy Perfections; Every Creature ſpeaks of thee, and declares thine Eternal Power and Dominion. But thou appeareſt moſt glorioufly, and moſt graciouſly in the Perſon, Miniſtry, and Goſpel of *thy Son*, who is thy own moſt perfect Image, and the chief Miniſter of thy Will.

I adore thine infinite Condeſcenſion, who ſent him down to help and ſave a World *ready to*

periſh

periſh in their Diſobedience and Rebellions, under the Tyranny of the Devil.

I praiſe thee, *my Lot* is fall'n where God is known, and the Goſpel of Chriſt is preached: I praiſe thee, who haſt not left *me* to periſh in my youthful Sin and Folly; but haſt touched my Soul, open'd my Mind, conquer'd my Heart, and drawn me into thy Covenant.

This Day have I *avouched* thee, the Lord, to be my God; I have *liſted* my ſelf under Chriſt; I have ſolemnly *ſworn* upon the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Chriſt; that I will be no more a Servant of Sin, but a Servant of Chriſt: O, that I may never *go back*, and deny my Lord and Maſter, never diſ-honour the Profeſſion I have made, nor expoſe my ſelf to Condemnation as an Apoſtate and Deſerter.

With all Thankfulneſs I own this has been a bleſſed Seaſon, a happy Opportunity, I eſteem it as the *great Day* of my Eſpouſals to Chriſt; and beg I may be a wiſe and faithful Steward of this and all ſuch Seaſons.

I thank thee, O bleſſed God, for the *Truth* and *Purity* of the Chriſtian Religion; for the *Evidences* of it, given by the Power of the Holy Ghoſt, in Chriſt and his Apoſtles; for, the *Reports* of it in the written Goſpel; for the *Succeſs* of it upon Souls; for the *Seals* and *Memorials* of it, in the Sacraments; Eſpecially for the *Miſſion of Chriſt*, the great Author of it.

I bleſs God, I have this Day ſolemnly *ſealed my Covenant* with God, wherein I have dedicated my Soul to thee, on the Terms of the ſame new Teſtament, which has been Sealed in Blood.

O God, fill *my Mind* with reverend Thoughts of thee, my Supreme Governour, my All-ſeeing

ing Witneſs, and my Judge; Fill *my Heart* with grateful and immutable Love to thee, my Heavenly Father; and fill my *whole Soul* with the higheſt Eſteem of thy Grace in giving thy Son to die for me; and may I feel the *beſt Pleaſures* in thy Service, and in the Hope of thine Acceptance, and in Expectation of that Sentence of my bleſſed Lord, " Come thou bleſſed of my Father——

God forbid that after ſo aweful Engagements, and ſo ſolemn Profeſſions, I ſhou'd ever degenerate into a baſe unworthy Love of ſinful Gains and Pleaſures, or any thing below Chriſt and Heaven.

I pray, that I may *feel the Joys* of Integrity and Uprightneſs; Make the ways of Wiſdom always pleaſant to me, and Religion my greateſt Comfort; And grant me thy Help, that by an Innocent, Blameleſs, Uſeful and Shining Life, I may adorn my Profeſſion, and commend a religious Choice and Practiſe to others; Eſpecially to my Young Companions,

Cauſe the good Seed of thy Word, which has this Day been ſown, to *take root* in my Heart, and the Hearts of many, that we may *bear Fruit* to thy Glory.

And may my future *Sabbaths* be ſo employed, that they may prepare me for that *Reſting Place*, which my Great Inſtructor and Merciful Saviour has prepared for all his Diſciples and Followers: That I may ſpend an *Everlaſting Sabbath* with Chriſt my Dear Lord; that the Communion I have this day had with him, may be only an Earneſt and Pledge of endleſs Communion with him in Heaven.

Now, unto the King Eternal, Immortal, Inviſible, the only wiſe God, be Honour and Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

XXV.

XXV. *A* PRAYER *to be uſed by a* YO[UNG] *with the Family, in his Father's* A[BSENCE]. *In the* MORNING.

INfinite God, thou art the Almighty C[REA]tor, the wiſe Governour, and the righteo[us] Judge of the whole World; And the God and *Father of all the Families* of the Earth, and who expect'ſt and claim'ſt to be owned and ſerved by all Families, eſpecially by the Families in *Iſrael*, who are enlightened with the Goſpel of thy Son.

Look down, O Lord, from Heaven the Habitation of thy Glory, upon a poor ſinful Family here gathered before thee; Though our Head is abſent from us, and we worſhip thee under great Diſadvantages, yet we hope thou wilt accept *the Day of ſmall Things*, and graciouſly hear and anſwer our imperfect Addreſſes.

With thee is the *Reſidue of the Spirit*, give unto us the ſpirit of Grace and of Prayer, that, by his kind Aſſiſtance, we may offer unto thee an Offering in Righteouſneſs; Be with our Hearts and our Lips, put *good Thoughts* into our Minds, and *apt Expreſſions* into our Mouths, and let all our Caſes come before thee.

Make us a wiſe, loving and religious Family; Let no Contentions ariſe amongſt us, cauſe us to dwell together in Friendſhip and Peace, and to do each other all the good in our Power.

As we are always under thine Eye, let us always *fear Sin*, which wou'd offend the Eyes of thy Holineſs and Glory, and deſtroy all our true Comforts.

Provide for us ſuitable Food and Raiment, and other temporal, bodily Bleſſings: Guard us from all the Dangers of the Day, and keep us

...ne Power of Temptation; Our chief ...ce is upon thee, our Heavenly Father, ... Grace be ſufficient for us. Give us ...rate ſucceſs in all our lawful Buſineſs; and ...ble us to bear Loſſes and Diſappoint...ents with a calm, rational Submiſſion, living in hope that all will turn to our good.

Preſerve *our Father abroad*, and proſper him in the way that he goes; we truſt him with thee, the Father of all the Spirits of Men, praying, thou wilt ſupport his Mind, ſpare his Life, guard his Health, keep him from both Sin and Harm, and, upon his Return, let us ſee his Face with Joy: And during his Abſence, may our Behaviour be ſuch, that the Report of it may be his Pleaſure.

Watch over us *all at Home*, aſſiſt the other Governing Head, our *dear Mother*, to go through all her Cares and Buſineſs with a chearful Spirit; ſuffer her not to be caſt down, but bear her up by a Heavenly Hand.

Spare them *both* to bring up their Children and Family in the ways of true Wiſdom and Virtue, and to diſpoſe of them comfortably in the World.

Aſſiſt the young Parts of the Family to behave towards God, our Parents, one another, and to all Men, ſo as to become the Joy of our Parents, and to pleaſe God.

And prepare us to meet one another in Heaven, that we may make up a Part of that great and bleſſed Family there.

Viſit mercifully all our dear Relations and Chriſtian Friends; own and aſſiſt thy Miniſters; preſerve Civil Government over us; ſend abroad thy Light and Truth, and mend the World; May Chriſtian Youth be well train'd up in Schools; take care of deſtitute and broken

ken Families; Enable us to contribute our ſhare towards Univerſal Reformation, that God may be every where glorified.

Now, unto him, who is the bleſſed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords; who only hath Immortality, dwelling in Light, which no Man can approach unto, whom no Man hath ſeen, nor can ſee; To him be Honour and Power Everlaſting. *Amen.*

XXVI. *A* Son *of a Family, his* Prayer *in the* Evening.

MOſt glorious Majeſty of Heaven and Earth! As thou haſt ordained *the Light* and the Day for Buſineſs and Chearfulneſs, thou haſt appointed *the Night* for Sleep and Reſt from Labour and Care.

Through the good Hand of our God upon us, we have now ſafely paſſed through the Service of the day, and are going to lie down and take our needful Reſt: We adore the Power and Goodneſs of our Heavenly Father, who hath preſerved us, provided for us, directed and counſelled us: Our Lives, our Health, our Senſes, our Limbs have all been precious in thy ſight, none of them have periſhed or failed; Our Minds and our Bodies, and our Worldly Buſineſs have all been under thy Care, bleſſed be thy Love; We would praiſe thee with all our Souls for the conſtant Iſſues of thy Goodneſs, who art daily loading us with thy Benefits.

But alaſs, how unworthy are we of ſuch regard! How oft do we forget thee! How many of thy Laws do we daily break! How little religious Fear and Love prevails amongſt us! What poor Returns do we make for all thy Mercies!

What numbers in the World want Health, while we are well; Cloathing while we are cover'd; Fewel, while we are warm; Food, while we are full; Beds, while we reſt and ſleep in thy Wool and Flax; How many want Bibles, Miniſters, good Books, and good Education, while we are well taught, and well trained up.

Lord, help us to pity, and relieve to our Power, the Neceſſities of others, either in Soul or Body; for who or what are we, that we ſhou'd fare better than others! We beg our Tempers and our Lives may teſtify what a humble and thankful ſenſe we have of all God's Care of us, and Kindneſs to us.

As thou, O God, haſt often preſerved *the Head* of our Family abroad, continue thy wonted Care; let him Travel and Sleep in ſafety, meet with deſirable Succeſs, and be brought home to us under the Bleſſings of Heaven.

May *we* alſo dwell in ſafety, be a Husband to thy Servant, our *Mother*, and a Father to *theſe Children*; bleſs us with thy Love and Favour; accept our broken Imperfect Prayers; help us in all our Affairs; Carry us through all Difficulties, and keep us in all Temptations.

Fit us for the Day, when *Father* and *Mother* will both *forſake us*, and do thou, Great Father take us up into the Arms of thy Power and Love, and be our beſt, our everlaſting Friend,

Spare us all, till *our Work is done*, and help us to do it well and ſoon, to uſe this World as a World paſſing away, and to be always ready to paſs out of it.

Be our Defence this Night, let us be ſecured from the Invaſion of wicked Spirits, and wick-

ed

ed Men, and from all other Evils, which without thy Protection wou'd befal us.

And ſince we know not what a Day or a Night may bring forth, diſpoſe us for all the Events of a new Day, that we may meet them with a ſteady, unſhaken Truſt in God.

Crown with Succeſs all Endeavours to reform the World; Fill Churches with faithful Miniſters Encourage them in their Work: Haſten the Time, when Kings and Magiſtrates ſhall all join in vindicating the Rights of Truth, of the Goſpel, and of Conſcience from all Invaſion: Make our King and Queen, and the Royal Family, Wiſe, Virtuous and Proſperous. May prevailing Righteouſneſs, Love and Goodneſs, under the Belief of the Goſpel, be the Glory of our Land; And let growing Knowledge, unſhaken Love, and ſtated Uſefulneſs, be the glory of this Family, and the Families of our Relations, and of all Chriſtian Families. That we may be all making ready for the *New Heavens*, and the *New Earth*, where Righteouſneſs and Love will dwell for ever.

Now unto him who is able to keep us from falling, and to preſent us faultleſs, before the Preſence of his Glory, with exceeding Joy; To the only wiſe God our Saviour be Glory and Majeſty, Dominion and Power, both now and for ever. *Amen.**

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* Note. *With a few Alterations, an Apprentice, or other Servant, may uſe theſe two laſt Prayers, in the Abſenſe of his* MASTER.

XXVII.

XXVII. *A* PRAYER *for the uſe of a Mother, or Miſtriſs of a Family.* In the* MORNING.

* Note. *This and the next Prayer are out of the Title and Character of the Book, yet will not be Judged, I hope, Incongruous to my Deſign.*

O Moſt merciful, gracious and compaſſionate Father, we are a ſinful unworthy Family come before thee this Morning, to crave thy Protection, to acknowledge thy Goodneſs, and to caſt our ſelves upon thy Care, who art the Helper of the Helpleſs, and the Saviour of thoſe who ſeek thee.

Though at preſent we are deprived of our *Earthly Head*, and want the Comforts of his Preſence, Counſels and Prayers, yet we hope we are not without ſome Intereſt in our *Heavenly Head*, the Father of our Spirits, and the Redeemer of loſt Souls.

In the Name, and through the Mediation of our Merciful High Prieſt, the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, we come to thee, O God and Father; In hope, that, for the ſake of what he has done and ſuffer'd on our Account, thou wilt look down upon us with tender and pitying Eyes, in all our Infirmities and Weakneſſes.

We know not how to ſpeak to thee as we ought; we cannot order our Words by reaſon of Darkneſs; we are Children in Knowledge and Years, and how ſhall we come before God, who is glorious in Holineſs.

Our Encouragement is, that the ſame God, who ſees all our Unworthineſs, is ready to forgive it, He will not break the bruiſed Reed, nor quench the Smoaking Flax, but bring forth Judgement and Mercy unto Victory.

In

In all our Weakneſs, we truſt in thine Acceptance; bow down thine Ear, O God of Grace, and hear us; Hear us for *thy Servant abroad*, be his Defence Night and Day, keep his Mind in Peace, and his Body in Health; bleſs his Juſt Deſigns, bring him to us, under thy Protection, with great Joy; Let us have no ſad Tidings to meet each other with at our Door; Yet prepare us, by a holy Submiſſion of Mind to thy will, for whatever may befal him, or us, through any Part of Life.

Hear us for *this Family* before thee; with us there is no Strength: our ſafety is of God, to him we come, on him we wait: Give us this Day our Daily Bread; Aſſiſt us in the Labours of the Day; Guard us through the Innumerable Dangers lying round us, and make our way plain before us, that none of our Foot-ſteps ſlide.

We deſire to walk in Love, and dwell together in Unity, as a Family of God: Lead us into all the Paths of Righteouſneſs, Truth, Sobriety, Charity, Peace, Meekneſs, Humility, Suitable to our Chriſtian Profeſſion.

Leave not a *poor Mother* Unaſſiſted in any Family Care, eſpecially in the Care of the Minds and Manners of her Children; And may the Endeavours of their Parents be ſucceeded to their growing in all inward Virtue and Goodneſs: May Sin meet with wiſe Rebukes, and Vice find an Early and Seaſonable Check: And may no proper Encouragements be wanting to Religion and Goodneſs.

Teach our *Children*, good God, out of thy Law, effectually teach them the Art of Living in Love amongſt themſelves; of Living Chaſtely, Soberly and Righteouſly in the World, and Holily towards thy ſelf.

If they come to be Fatherleſs and Motherleſs, may they find a Refuge in God, and, by true and ſolid Piety, keep up an Intereſt in Heaven.

Thou ſeeſt the Snares and Dangers around them, what a tempting World they live in, and what an Enemy waits for them; be thou their Preſerver and Keeper Every Moment, that they never fall a Prey to the Devil. Bleſſed God keep all theſe Children out of Everlaſting Burning; may we ſee all their Faces one Day in Glory.

*Or Servants. } Succeed to them, to our *Servant, and to all other Young People the Labours of thy Miniſters, and all other means of Inſtruction, to promote their well-being for ever.

Defend us and all other Families, Aſſemblies and Towns by good Magiſtrates.

Bleſs this and other Countries with clear Goſpel Light; with Peace, Health, and Succeſs in all lawful Buſineſs; May all People know the Lord, and the Kingdoms of the World become the Kingdoms of God, and of his Son.

And now, O God and Father, we reſign our ſelves to thee, do with us all what ſeemeth good in thy Sight, as to Life, Health, and all temporal good Things; only prepare us for thy Heavenly Kingdom, and receive us all into it at laſt, after a Life of faithful Service to thee, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, to whom with thee and thy good Spirit, be Glories aſcribed, now and for ever. *Amen.*

XXVIII. *A* PRAYER *for the uſe of a Mother, or Miſtreſs, with her Family; In the* EVENING.

EVer bleſſed, moſt good and gracious God, we come to thee, as helpleſs Children to a powerful and all-ſufficient Father. Thou

Thou art *bleſſed in thy ſelf*, nor can any of our Services and Praiſes add to thy Perfections and Happineſs; but our Dependance is upon thee, the God of our Lives; In thee we live every Day, in thee we breathe and move every Minute; and to whom can we go but to thee for all ſupplies of Wiſdom, Grace, and other Bleſſings.

Though we can pray to thee but very imperfectly, and want our beſt and *ſtated Helper* in this Exerciſe, yet we dare not wholly neglect the Oblation of our ſelves to thee, and theſe our united Addreſſes before thee.

Thou art the Builder up of our Houſe, our daily Defence, our conſtant and chief Benefactor; How then can we forget the God who made us, who keeps us, who feeds us, who gives us all Family Bleſſings.

As we have ſtatedly own'd God, ever ſince his Wiſdom and Goodneſs form'd us into a little Society, we deſire to carry on that ſacred Service in the beſt manner we are able, though attended with various Defects; And we go on in Hope thou wilt in due time reſtore to us *our Head*, our *Conſort*, and our *Father*, the better to aſſiſt us in all Parts of Religious Duty.

As we commit *his dear* and *valuable Life* to God, the great Preſerver of Men, deſiring, with Submiſſion, his Safety Abroad and at Home, ſo we beg leave to put *our ſelves* into thy Hands, O great Father! we truſt thee with all theſe Lives, and with all our leſſer Concerns in Life; and deſire to truſt thee, in the ways of faithful Obedience, to make good thy Promiſes of Eternal Life, when this is over.

Pity *a Mother*, and her dear *Off-ſpring*, under all the Diſadvantages of Sex and Age, indue us with Wiſdom and Virtue ſuitable to

our Station and Duty: Make our Duty plain to us, and leave us not under Difficulties of ny Sort.

May the *Family* be governed in Righteouſneſs and Love, and all the Young Branches willingly ſubmit to Government, thankfully accept of Inſtruction, and chearfully join in Family-Worſhip.

May *Sin* be kept out of the Houſe, and no other Plague come nigh our Dwelling.

Teach theſe Young ones the due Government of their *Paſſions*, *Appetites*, and *Senſes*, that they may never gain Dominion over Reaſon, Conſcience, and the Law of God,

Settle amongſt us the Principles of Love, and the Practiſe of Peace; prevent all injurious *Actions*, all provoking *Words*, and all undue *Reſentments*, by leading us into Conſideration, into a Belief of God's All-ſeeing Eye, and into a View of the Reaſonableneſs of treating others, as we our ſelves ſhou'd think it fit to be treated in the like Caſe.

Forgive the Sins of the Day paſt; make us truly thankful for Health, Safety, and all Comfortable Supplies: We thank thee for all our religious Helps and Advantages, for Bibles and Miniſters, for the knowledge of Chriſt our Redeemer, and the way to Heaven by him: We thank thee for good Governours, and for the Peace and Safety of the Nation under them, and for all publick Bleſſings.

Give us leave to lie down and ſleep, none making us afraid; Suſtain every Life this Night, raiſe us up in the Morning into a new Life; and by Undreſſing and Dreſſing, by our Lying down and Riſing, may we be every Day minded of putting off theſe Bodies, and awakeing into Eternal Life, through Jeſus Chriſt, who

who is the Reſurrection and the Life; who was dead, but is alive, and lives for ever, To whom be Glory now and for ever. *Amen.*

XXIX. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Man in* TOWN.

O Moſt great Creator, Sovereign Ruler, and Righteous Judge of all Men! Who divideſt the Families upon Earth, and fixeſt the Lot of all thy Creatures with unerring Wiſdom and perfect Juſtice.

I find my ſelf plac'd, by thy Hand, in a *great* and *buſy Town*, ſurrounded with Company of all Sorts, and Dangers of every Kind; Unto thee therefore, O Father in Heaven, I offer up my Earneſt Prayers, that thou wilt ſo order my Goings, that my Feet may never Slide.

I already begin to ſee Life to be a ſort of *Labyrinth*, full of Windings and Turnings, where many are loſt; Some entangled in the *Cares*, and in the *Pleaſures* of Life; and moſt minding *only the Body*, living as if they had *no Souls*, and expecting no Judgement.

The greater Part of Young People are, I fear, brought up in the *School of Ignorance, Vice and Folly*, and are going careleſly forward in the *Broad Way*, not thinking where it leads; or how it will end.

O good God! Let thy Grace be ſufficient for me, to direct my whole Way, what Buſineſs to purſue, what Company to make choice of, and how to behave in all Places, and at all Times.

Perſuade me to enter the *School of Wiſdom and Virtue*, and to walk in the *Narrow Way*,

how few ſoever I ſee there; Keeping my Mind upon *my Rule*, thinking oft on thine *All-ſeeing Eye*, which is every where, and watches over all my ſteps; and looking forward to the Bleſſed *End* of a Wiſe and Virtuous Life.

I beg that a true habitual ſenſe of *thy Preſence*, a ſtedfaſt Belief of a *Life to come*, and a conſtant Expectation of *future Rewards and Puniſhments*, at the Judgement of the Great Day, may over-awe my Mind every Day, check every ſinful Motion in me, and break the Force of every Temptation, that I may never hazard the Loſs of Eternal Joys, for the Momentary Pleaſures, or Unrighteous Gains of this World, and fooliſhly ſell my Heavenly Birth-right for a Meſs of Pottage.

To thy Wiſe Care, and tender Compaſſion over my Soul thus far, I owe my *paſt ſafety*; Thy Grace has oft prevented me, and kept me from many a Snare, in which other young Men have been caught and ſlain: Many are gone, and others are going down to the *Chambers of Death*, and making haſte to *Hell*; O God keep me out of the Paths of the Deſtroyer, deliver me from the Evil of the World; and ſeeing the Son of God died to redeem me from Iniquity, may I accept Redemption, eſcape for my Life, and fly to the Mercy of God in Chriſt for ſafety.

Help me to ſet the Goſpel, and the *Life* of my Saviour oft before me, that I may become Holy, Humble, Watchful, Heavenly-Minded as my Lord and Maſter was. Let the *Precepts* of the Goſpel teach me how Holy thou art, its *Promiſes* teach me how good, and its *Threatenings* how Juſt thou art, what a Hater of all Iniquity; and may *all* of them teach me, that I can never have thy Favour in a Courſe of Sin.

May

May ſerious Conſideration awake in me a true Concern to eſcape the *Corruptions* which are in the World, to fly all *Youthful Luſts*, and to follow after Righteouſneſs, Faithfulneſs, Charity.

And ſeeing there is *Nothing in Heaven or Earth* truly deſirable but thee, who filleſt and poſſeſſeſt both, I deſire to chooſe thee as my chief Good, and to count my ſelf happy in thy Love, who art able to make *all thy Friends* as great and happy as thou pleaſeſt.

In order to be happy in thy Favour, aſſiſt me to recover a *lively Image of thee*, in all Truth and Purity, Goodneſs and Mercy, that I may know thou loveſt me; And may the Remembrance of thy Love in Chriſt Jeſus be ever dear to me; And whether I wake or ſleep, go out and come in, may I be ever with thee; And when I die may I go to the Sight of Chriſt, in the Society of Angels and holy Souls, where I ſhall praiſe and love thee for ever, when this vain World is no more; Through Jeſus my great Saviour, to whom be the Glory of all his Perfections, Love and Sufferings, now and ever. *Amen*,

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XXX. *A* YOUNG *Man in the* COUNTRY, *at* PRAYER.

GReat God! Heaven is thy Throne, and Earth thy Foot-Stool, and thou doſt whatever pleaſeth thee in Heaven, and amongſt the Inhabitants of the Earth; Yet thy work is perfect, and all thy ways are Judgment, nor is there *any Reſpect of Perſons* with thee, but in every *Nation*, and in every *Dwelling*, he who feareth thee, and worketh Righteouſneſs is accepted with thee. Though

Though thy wiſe Providence has placed me in a *Country Station*, where I want *many Advantages*, ariſing from nearneſs to the Houſe of God, from the Company of Miniſters, and other wiſe and good men, and from a Variety of Books, which the Young Men *in Town* enjoy; Yet I deſire Chearfully to accept, and Faithfully to improve my Lot; I bleſs God the *Way to Heaven* lies open from every Place, and God is ready to hear every Creature wherever it lives and prays.

I am ſenſible, in many a Youth, Wiſdom and Virtue have grown under *fewer Advantages* than I poſſeſs; I beg the Sacred Influence of thy Spirit, that I may alſo grow in every Quality of mind, which will render me acceptable to God and Man. If I want many *Helps*, I am free from many *Hindrances*, and many *Temptations*, which ſurround Young People in populous Places, and in a croud of Company and Buſineſs; Aſſiſt me, in a ſerious Judgment, to ſet the one over againſt the other, and to acquieſce in the Wiſdom of thy Diſpoſals: I wou'd be ſo far from a murmuring and complaining Temper, that I deſire to admire the Felicity of my Situation, which gives me ſo much *Happy Leaſure* for Contemplation, Reading and Prayer.

Aſſiſt me, O gracious God, to view *Thee*, in all thy ſurrounding Works, which declare thy Aſtoniſhing *Greatneſs*, thy Almighty *Power*, thy Unſearchable *Wiſdom*, and thy neverfailing *Goodneſs*; Thy Works of Creation and Providence are viſible where ever I go, for the Earth is thine, and all its Fulneſs.

Every Day that I walk out to my Buſineſs in the Field, or to take my Evening Walk, may I *lift up my Thoughts* to thee, aſcribing all Perfections, all Praiſe, Honour and Glory to thee,

Who

Who haſt created the Sun, Moon and Stars, even all the Hoſt of Heaven; *Who* makeſt the Day dark with Night, and changeſt the Shadow of Death into the Morning; *Who* Thundereſt Marvelouſly with thy Voice, and whoſe Lightenings enlighten the World; *Who* bringeſt the Wind out of thy Treaſuries, and cauſeſt the Vapours to aſcend; *Who* ſaith to the Snow, "Be thou upon the Earth," and calleſt for the Waters of the Sea, and poureſt them out upon the Face of the Earth; *Who* cauſeſt Graſs to grow for Cattle, and Herb for the ſervice of Man; *Who* reneweſt the Face of the Earth, crowneſt the Year with thy Goodneſs, ſo that the Paſtures are cloathed with Flocks, and the Vallies covered with Corn.

My Station, my Buſineſs, my Diverſions do all lead me to contemplate thee, O bleſſed God! *Who* provideſt Food for all Creatures, and Feedeſt the Fowls of the Air, *Who* haſt created Sheep and Oxen for the ſervice of Man, yea every Beaſt of the Field; *Who* openeſt thine Hand, and ſatisfieſt the deſires of all Living; and whoſe Delights are with the Sons of Men, for whoſe ſake thou haſt Ordained all theſe Things.

By ſuch Meditaions as theſe, and by other Holy Exerciſes may I be obtaining and improving an Acquaintance with thee; And what other Helps I have from my Parents, my Miniſters, from Books and Company, teach me to value them, and to uſe them in the beſt Manner.

Preſerve me from falling in with any *ſinful Cuſtoms* of the Place I live in, May all my Recreations be innocent and blameleſs, promote the Health of my Body, and the Chearfulneſs of my Mind.

May

May my Bible be my chief Companion, and by reading that bleſſed Book may I be led to know more of thy Unſpeakable Love to me, and to all the World, in and through Jeſus Chriſt, who came in ſo ſurpriſing and unexpected a Manner to viſit ſuch vile Creatures as me, who dwell in Houſes of Clay, to prepare for us Habitations in Heaven.

From the Bottom of my Soul wou'd I praiſe thy Fatherly Goodneſs for his Manifeſtation in Fleſh, for the numerous Teſtimonies of his Love, throughout his whole Life, and for that Aſtoniſhing Grace in humbling himſelf to Death for us, for his Reſurrection from the Dead, and his Aſcenſion to Heaven; for his great Authority over all Things, his Compaſſionate Interceſſion; for the Aſſiſtance of his Spirit, and the Aſſurances given us of his Coming again to the Salvation of all his Saints; of which number may I be one, through his Mediation, To whom be the Glory of his whole Mediatorial Office, now and for ever. *Amen.*

XXXI. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG LADY *in* TOWN.

MOſt Holy, and Glorious God! Whatever I am in the *Eye of the World*, in *thy Sight*, I am no other than a *poor Sinner*; And the Review of my Heart and Life tells me I have Reaſon to appear ſo in *my own Sight*.

I am ſenſible I am made of no *finer Clay* than the meaneſt Girl, am equally *liable to die*, and be turn'd to Duſt, and have added *Sin* to my Original Vileneſs, which ſhou'd for ever keep me humble, and prevent an haughty Look, or a high Carriage.

I fear

I fear, O great God! I have offended thy Majeſty, and wrong'd my own Soul by living too much after the *Way*, and *Spirit of the World*; Hereafter I deſire to live ſolely to thy Will, and to give up my ſelf to thee my Creator and Redeemer.

My paſt Time has been ſpent very looſely, but now, through thy Grace, I am coming to a Reſolution to put my *Time*, my *Converſation*, my Worldly *Fortune*, my *All* under the Rules of *Religion*, that a Diſpoſition to Piety and Virtue may be the Temper of *every Day* in my Life, which has ſeldom yet been the Temper of *one whole Day*,

To this End, I beg, O God, to be delivered from a *wrong Turn* of Mind, and a *Vicious Taſte* of the World, from all vain *Deſires*, fooliſh *Friendſhips*, and groundleſs *Hatreds*, from a Fondneſs for *Dreſs* and *State*, from an *idle* Diſpoſition, and a *trifleing* Spirit: May I never dare to mock thee, my Maker, by adding *Chriſtian* Profeſſions and Devotions to a *Heathen Life*; but may I live as belonging chiefly to another World.

It is my Grief and Shame that it has been ſo much my *prevailing Intention* to *pleaſe my ſelf*, and that I have made *my Body* my Idol; Through the bleſſed Change thy Hand has wrought I hope it is now my *great Intention* to *pleaſe thee* in all my Actions.

I no longer affect to ſhine at Balls and Aſſemblies, and to make a Figure amongſt the Well-Dreſs'd; I bluſh to think at the *Vanity* of my paſt Expences, the *Folly* of my Diverſions, the *Pride* of my Habit, the *Idleneſs* of my Life, and how *Unprotfiable* a Creature I have been; I purpoſe hereafter, by thine Aſſiſtance, to purſue and

tiſe ſuch a *Courſe of Holineſs* as will content and ſupport me in a Dying Hour.

Pity me, O my God, and pardon me that I am ſo unready to appear before my *Judge*, ſo unready to meet that *Death*, which will ſink all the Gaities, Pleaſures, Feaſts and Buſineſs of the World into an *equal Littleneſs*, and ſhew how vain a Creature Man is.

Make me ſee that Religion is a *Form of Life* offer'd unto God, every where; and lies not in *Forms of Prayer*; that it is the *Daily Sacrifice* of a reaſonable Conduct, of wiſe Actions, of Purity of Heart, and Heavenly Affections, and does not conſiſt of Superficial and Lip-Devotions.

I lament the Delicacy and Indulgence of my Education, which has but too much fitted me for a *Senſual*, Self-gratifying Life, which for a long Time I have ſadly perſued; As if the great *Ends* of Life were to *Dreſs Fine*, to be Seen and Admired; My *Deſires* have been irregular, and my *Views* proud, and my *Soul* a neglected Thing.

But ſince thy Word has touched my Heart, and opened my Eyes, for which I can never render thee ſufficient Praiſe, I am determin'd *my Soul* ſhall be more my Care; I will *Nouriſh* it with good Works, make it *Wiſe* by Reading, *Enlighten* it by Meditation, *Strengthen* it by Prayer, *Adorn* it with Meekneſs, *Sweeten* it by Humility, *Enliven* it by Hymns and Pſalms, and *Comfort* it by Reflections on the Future Glory.

My Hope and my Purpoſe is, no longer to live by *Fancy* and *Humour*, nor waſte my Money in *Needleſs* or *Ridiculous* Expences; but by the wiſe uſe of that Talent become *Eyes* to the Blind, *Feet* to the Lame, *Health* to the Sick, *Comfort* to the Miſerable, not by a few *Charitable Actions*

ons only, but by a *Charitable Life.*

I truſt in thy Help, O Lord, that I ſhall no more gratify, and ſo increaſe *Unreaſonable* Appetites, nor nouriſh ill Tempers, nor indulge my Paſſions, or Support, by the Purchaſe of Trifles, a vain and a worldly *Frame of Mind.*

How Common or *Faſhionable* however ſuch Extravagancies are, ſince they tend to Corrupt the Temper of the Mind, and fill the Heart with poor and ſilly Paſſions, and divert from the Love of God and better Things, I reſolve not to be any longer conform'd to the fooliſh Cuſtoms of the World, which are ſo manifeſt Obſtructions and Hindrances to a pious Spirit. I beg I may always have Courage rather to eſteem the Character of a *true Chriſtian*, than of a *fine Lady*; may look better to the *State of my Heart*, and chooſe to recommend my ſelf by the *ſolid Virtues* of the Mind, and by an Unſpotted and Beneficent Life, rather than any *Outſide Fineries.*

And I pray that at laſt, after a Life ſpent in religious Fear, I may find a merciful *Pardon* of my *paſt Follies*, and a merciful *Acceptance* of my *poor Services*, in the Day when I muſt ſtand naked amongſt *Common Souls*, before Jeſus Chriſt my righteous Judge, and compaſſionate Interceſſor, who loved me, and I hope, has waſhed me from my Sins in his own Blood, to whom be Glory and Dominion for ever. *Amen.*

See Law's *ſerious Call* &c.

XXXII. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Woman in the* COUNTRY.

EVer bleſſed God! I adore thine infinite Knowledge and Wiſdom preſiding over the

whole World, governing the long Chain of Cauſes and Events, ſo ordering Affairs in the *Natural* and *Rational* World, that all Perſons fall into ſuch States as were Fore-ſeen and Fore-ordained to their beſt Advantage, and which beſt Subſerve the great Ends of thy Government.

I would therefore be eaſy and chearful in my *Country Station*, in Conſequence of my Reſignation to the Divine Will, and deſire to devote my *Spare* Hours to the Cultivating my Mind with right *Apprehenſions* of God, and right *Affections* towards him; And every Day, and every Hour to think act and live according to the Strictſt Rules of Chriſtianity, continually improving and perfecting my Spirit, that it may be *return'd unto God* Holy and Heavenly by the practiſe of Univerſal Holineſs.

I thank God I have been train'd up in Humble *Induſtry*, in great *Plainneſs* of Life, in *Modeſty* of Dreſs, of Manners and Carriage, and in Spirit of true *Religion*. Though I poſſeſs not the the Gaities, the Fineries, the Diverſions of Young Women in Town; I am alſo free of their Temptations, Snares, Deluſions, which draw many into an idle, impertinent, careleſs, giddy way of Life.

The more I *reaſon* and *reflect*, the more I ſee into the Vanity of fine Dreſſes, and thoſe Amuſements which could never pleaſe ſo much, but through a *Littleneſs of Mind*, and *Want of Thought*. I deſire to count nothing fine about me, but a *fine Mind*; that I may never affect to ſhew my *Breeding* any way, but by a juſt Judgment of Things, by Love and Good-will, by Compaſſion and Tenderneſs, by Affability and Condeſcenſion, and by all the Virtues of a Chriſtian; that it may appear Religion has the *Government of my Heart*, and that Heavenly Love, founded in Reaſon and Piety, poſſeſſeth my Heart. Give

Give me Grace to ſit ſo looſe to this World, that I may part with it every Night, as if I was *never to ſee it more*, and to uſe it every Day, as a World that is paſſing away. Give me a *clean* and *bright Mind* fitted to contemplate and love whatever is Virtuous, Holy and Divine, and always diſpoſed to imitate the Temper and Life of my dear Lord, who died to redeem me from all Iniquity.

Deliver me from an *idle State of Mind*, and from all thoſe wrong *Ends* which wou'd ſpoil my Actions, and manifeſt unto God a ſecret Corruption of Heart. Deliver me from every Degree of that *Pride*, which creates a thouſand Wants as troubleſome as if God had created Men and Women with a thouſand Appetites.

Keep me from being too *Eager* of thoſe innocent *Diverſions* which my Country State afford; And as I have daily Opportunities of viewing a vaſt Variety of God's Works in the Fields and Gardens round me, and in the Heavens over me, may I prefer theſe Meditations to the *poor ſatisfactions of Senſe*, which Men deſtitute of Religion take up with.

Aſſiſt me, O God of Grace, in praying down all my *ill-natur'd Paſſions*, and by converſing with God may I be inſpired with *tender Sentiments* towards my Fellow-Creatures.

I deſire, by Purity of Thought, and Chaſtity of Behaviour, to conſecrate my Soul and Body a Temple of God; Inhabit my Heart, O God, by thy holy Spirit.

As I have no Notion of a Saint *genteely Dreſt*, I wou'd be far from any undue Affections for platted Hair, Gold and Pearl Ornaments, or any coſtly Array, but (as it becometh Young Women profeſſing Godlineſs) may I be adorn'd with modeſt Apparel, Shame-facedneſs, Sobriety, and good

good Works, and with a meek and quiet Spirit, as holy Women of old adorn'd themſelves, and which, in the ſight of God, are of great Price. 1 *Tim.* 2. 9. 10. 1 *Pet.* 3. 3. 5.

I ſincerely lament all my paſt Mis-behaviour, and am greatly grieved I ſhould improve Sabbaths and Holy Aſſemblings no better; How oft have I been drawn into thy Houſe by ſo little and ſo ſinful a Motive as to *ſhew my ſelf* and ſee others, while in the mean time *Prayer* has been loſt, *Pſalms and Hymns* have never affected me, and my Heart has received the *Word* as a High Way doth Seed, where little or none takes root and grows.

Thus have I prophaned thy Sanctuary, trampled on the Goſpel of Salvation, and neglected the Blood of a Saviour ſhed to ſave my Soul.

O that the Memory of my Lord may be more Dear to me, that I may follow his Example, and Obtain an Intereſt in his Purchaſe. Impreſs my Spirit, Lord, with ſuch a vigorous ſenſe of thy Love in Chriſt Jeſus to me, as may provoke me to an Unwearied Diligence in well-doing all my Days; that when this vain World is at an End, and my Days on Earth are finiſhed, I may enter into Peace, Reſt and Joy for ever more, through Jeſus Chriſt, through whom be given to thee, O Father, by the Aids of the Holy Spirit, Everlaſting Praiſes. *Amen.*

XXXIII. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Man in* COURTSHIP.

INfinitely Great and Glorious Creator and Governour of the World, who made Man in *thine own Image*, that he might know, honour, love ſerve, and live with thee for ever.

And

And who haſt made him *Male and Female*, that by uniting in the deareſt Society, they might help each other to ſerve thee better, and raiſe up a ſeed to carry on thy Worſhip and Service while the World ſhall endure.

As I judge it no longer my Duty, Intereſt and ſafety to live alone, I am looking out for a *Help meet for me*, who may be my *Life Companion*, to bear with me a Share of all my Troubles, to partake of all my Joys, and aſſiſt me in all my Labours and Cares.

Upon this *Great Occaſion*, I addreſs my ſelf to thee, O good and gracious God, of whoſe Care and Love, I have already had ſo ample Experience, that I may be directed in *my Choice*, and in every Step I take in this important Affair.

I beg that I may not be under the prevailing Influence of a *Worldly Spirit*, nor be govern'd by meerly *Secular Views*; ſince the Happineſs and Comfort of Life conſiſteth not in the Abundance of the Things that a Man poſſeſſeth.

May I be principally determined in my Purſuit by Perſonal Characters, and an Agreeableneſs of Temper; To this End make me in Love with Wiſdom, Modeſty, Goodneſs and all Virtue, which are *the Beauties of the Mind*; That this Principle may ſecure my Heart from following the Charms of Beauty without Grace, and being taken with any fading Good.

As I hope *the Motives of this World* ſhall not tempt me to Court and Marry the Perſon *I do not*, and fear *I cannot love*; ſo I beg Wiſdom and Grace to induce me to love and chooſe a Perſon every way deſerving my Love and Choice.

It is *not in Man*, much leſs in Young Men to *direct their Way*; do thou O Heavenly Father, lead me in the Way I ſhou'd go; that I may find a Perſon in whoſe Society I ſhall be as happy

happy as the State of Things here will allow; and open my way to Succeſs in my lawful Undertaking.

May I never carry on ſo *ſerious an Affair* by Intrigue or Deceit, nor make *Profeſſions* beyond my *real Affections*; but abhor the Thought of deluding any innocent Fellow-Creature by vain and ſham Pretences.

As I deſire to enter *Honourably*, and with a clear Conſcience into the Married State, I ask thine Aſſiſtance to overcome and diſcharge all impure Deſires, to ſubdue every irregular Paſſion, that I may poſſeſs my Veſſel in Sanctification and Honour, ſeeing I am called by the Goſpel to Holineſs in all manner of Converſation.

And Enable me, O my God, to make ſuch Improvements in Underſtanding, in Wiſdom, in Diligence, Sobriety, and every inward Quality that I may become acceptable to a Perſon of real Merit.

And as ever I wou'd hope to do well in this or any Affair, may I ſtrive to ſecure an Intereſt in *thy Favour*, who haſt the Hearts of all in thy Hands, by Unchangeable Love to thee, by living in thy Fear, by a care to pleaſe thee in Faithful and Univerſal Obedience.

If, in thy wiſe Providence, thou ſeeſt fit to deny me Succeſs, and croſs me by any Diſappointments, I beg a humble Submiſſion to thy Will, which, I hope, will order all Things to my preſent and Everlaſting Good. The more Vanity and Vexation of Spirit I find in the Affairs of this preſent Life, may I the leſs think of *Reſt below*, and the more ſeek a *Kingdom that cannot be moved*, where Chriſt my Dear Lord, lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

XXXIV.

XXXIV. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Woman in* COURTSHIP.

O Moſt High and Holy Majeſty, who art before all Things, independently bleſſed in thy ſelf, and art diſpoſed to make all thy Creatures bleſſed and happy ſuitably to their Nature and Capacities; I bow down my ſelf before thee, under a ſenſe of my own Inſufficiencies, and that nothing can make me truly happy *without thy Love and Favour.*

Poſſeſs'd of this Belief, I deſire in the firſt Place to *chooſe thee*, O God, as the Strength of my Heart, and the Portion of my Soul; for whom have I in Heaven but thee, and what is there in all the Earth deſirable compared with thee: Having avouched thee, the Lord, to be *my God*, I hope thou wilt be my Guide through Life, and at Death my Exceeding great Reward.

I am a poor young thoughtleſs Creature, ſubject to many *falſe Judgments* and *fooliſh Paſſions*, and dare not truſt my ſelf in the *leſſer Affairs* of Life; I need Wiſdom from above in the Conduct of Every Day, and much more in the *great Article* of chooſing a *Companion for Life*; And ſince thy Providence ſeems putting this Matter now to my Choice, I pray thou wouldſt aſſiſt all *my own Deliberations* on a matter ſo Momentous; and over-rule for my good the *Conſultations* of my Parents and Friends, that the Iſſue may be well.

Keep up in my Soul a continual and an aweful Apprehenſion of thy Preſence and All-ſeeing Eye over me, that this may diſpoſe me to the ſtricteſt Watch over my Thoughts, Words and Actions; that no *Appearance of Evil* may attend my Behaviour; God forbid I ſhou'd ever

admit a Thought of thoſe Sins which War againſt the Soul, and kill the Seeds of Religion.

Let the Purity of my Mind, the Innocency of my Intention, the Unſpotted Chaſtity of my Whole Conduct keep off all undue Advances, and baniſh all indecent Talk from my Ears.

Indue me with a diſtinguiſhing Judgment, and diſpoſe and enable me to weigh and Meaſure a Man rather by the *Qualities of his Mind* than by the Mein of his Perſon, the Air of his Addreſs, or the Bulk of his Fortune.

As I hope thou haſt already in thy great Goodneſs, given me a Love to Wiſdom and Piety, I beg thy gracions Hand will prevent my being ever Yoak'd with a Fool, a Sot, or a Knave; May no Worldly Inducements whatever draw me into an irreligious Match, or an abſurd Choice.

But teach and incline me to fix upon one who will always conſider me as his *deareſt Poſſeſſion* in Life, who will every Day contribute to my Comfort and Happineſs, and whoſe wiſe, ſober, religious Behaviour will be my growing Satisfaction.

In order to which deſirable State of Life, beſtow on me, O God, all thoſe inward Excellencies, and real Virtues which will render me ever more and more acceptable to a Man of the trueſt Judgment and Penetration; that if a Married State be my Lot it may be an Addition to the Happineſs of each of us in the *preſent Life*, and no Bar to our Preparation for Happineſs *hereafter*.

Fit me for all the Duties and Offices of every Station of Life; And if ever I ſtand at the Head of a Family, May I fill up that great Place with all Wiſdom and Prudence.

But however theſe Affairs iſſue, keep my Heart immutably fix'd on thee and thy Ways; Raiſe me

me up to great Degrees of Sacred Goodneſs, tranſlate my beſt Affections from all theſe lower Objects, in every undue Meaſure, and place them upon *him* who is fairer than the Children of Men, and cauſe unſeen Things to exceed in mine Eye, and to out-ſhine all the fading Splendor of Earthly Objects: Poſſeſs me with ſo ſtrong a ſenſe of thy Love to me in Chriſt Jeſus as ſhall cure me of a *Worldly Spirit*, of all *Sloth of Mind*, and ſinful *Solicitude* about the Events of time.

In whatever State and Relation of Life I am, I pray that my *Love* to any thing here below may not degenerate into Fondneſs, nor my *Joy* and Chearfulneſs into Lightneſs and Vanity, nor my *Serioufneſs* and Sorrow turn into Melancholly and Diſcontent, nor my Juſt *Anger* proceed to Hatred and Contention, nor my *Induſtry* in Buſineſs ſink into Earthlineſs of Mind, or grow into Careleſneſs and Diſtruſt, nor my *Diſcretion* and Prudence ever put on the Form of Craft, Diſſimulation and Deceit.

But in all Things may I behave with Chriſtian Innocency, and true Wiſdom, that I may adorn the Doctrine of my Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt in all my Actions. To him be Praiſes and Thankſgivings for ever and ever *Amen*.

XXXV. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Man on the Point of* MARRIAGE.

O Lord God, thou great Builder, and great Ruler of the Intellectual World, and all Affairs belonging to it.

In order to people the World, and bring more Souls upon their Trial, under the Care of proper Inſtructors, and in order to promote the Happi-

Marriage

neſs of Mankind, thou haſt fitted us for the *Social State*; nor thought it good for Man *to be alone* in Paradiſe, and therefore didſt create him a ſuitable Companion there; and haſt ordained Marriage as an Honourable State for Man in general.

Godly Seed

With thee is the *Reſidue of the Spirit*, and thou couldſt as eaſily have formed more Men or more Women; but in that great Original Pattern haſt thou ſhewn us it is thy Pleaſure, as moſt conducive to the good of the World, to our own Happineſs, and a neceſſary Means to raiſe a *Godly Seed*, that in the Conjugal State our Hearts ſhou'd be entire in the Love of one.

I adore the Infiniteneſs of thy Wiſdom, and the Unſearchable Skill of thy Hand, and the Unbounded Iſſues of thy Love, which, in every Age ſo equally divides and ballances the Numbers of each Sex, diſtinguiſhes them by Lines viſible in the Countenance, and beautifies them with a Variety of attractive Graces.

Through the Influence of thy Counſel, and the Direction of thy Hand, which I always ſought, I hope, I have made a *wiſe Choice*; And, through thy Goodneſs, have thus far ſucceeded in my Addreſſes.

Mar: 4

Great and many are the Mercies of my paſt Life, which I recount with Praiſe, may they continue and abound in every future Stage. And, as far as I can Judge, ſeeing I am near a Change from a Single into a *Social* Life, I beg Grace and Help ſuitable to my intended new Relation; Give me an underſtanding of all the Duties of the *Chriſtian Life*, and of the *Married State*, and an Inclination to diſcharge them all: Let that ſolid Content, that undivided Friendſhip, that mutual Satisfaction in each other ariſe from our near Relation and daily Converſation, as

ſhall

ſhall always cauſe me to reflect on my Marriage Day as a *Great Day*, a Happy Day in Life.

But as I know not *what a Day may bring forth*, fit me, by Wiſdom, Patience, Reſolution and Truſt in God, to bear well and improve the ſoreſt Diſappointment I may meet with.

I earneſtly commend to thy Fatherly Care my *intended Spouſe*, if through thy wiſe Diſpoſal of Affairs, we are brought together, I deſire I may always treat her as the Wife of my Youth, of my Choice, of my Covenant, and of my Love, with Dearneſs and Un-alienable Affection. May I always repreſent her to my Mind under the moſt advantageous Idea, and in the moſt lovely Characters; and never be tempted to harbour one unkind Thought againſt her, or to give her an unkind Look or Word. By a wiſe, tender and loving Behaviour, may I always recommend my ſelf to her Eſteem and Sincereſt Affection; Let no Miſtakes or Suſpicions ariſe to ſpoil the Entireneſs of our Love. May ſhe be always *Mine*, let my Heart reſt and truſt in her, let her Breaſts ſatisfie me at all times, and may I be raviſhed ever with her Love.

I beg, Lord, that the Purity of our Hearts, the Chaſtity of our Converſation, the Sweetneſs of our Tempers, a Complying Diſpoſition, coupled with religious Fear, may render us acceptable unto each other and to God. May all our Troubles be leſſened by dividing them, and all our *Joys* encreaſed by communicating them.

And *beginning* our New State holily, under a ſenſe of God and Eternal Things, may we *go on* chearfully through the World, and find a greater and more durable Happineſs prepared for us at laſt, in the Preſence of the Lamb which was Slain, To whom be all Bleſſing, and Honour, and Glory and Power for ever. *Amen.*

XXXVI.

XXXVI. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Woman intending to enter the* MARRIED STATE.

Wife

INfinitely wiſe and Omniſcient God, who haſt thine Eye upon all the Children of Men, and thy Hand upon all the Springs of Actions ſo that though the *Lot is caſt into the Lap*, the *whole diſpoſing thereof is from the Lord.*

To thee I come with my humble Prayer; The *Important Change* in Life before me, fills me with vaſt Concern; I am going to diſpoſe of my ſelf *for Life*, and hope it is with the Approbation of thee, O Great Father, to whom I have before given up my ſelf, and whoſe Direction I have ſought in this Matter; and as my Parents and Friends approve my Choice I hope it will be attended with thy Bleſſing.

I think of it with Fear and Trembling, as Conſcious of my great Failings, and how inſufficient I am to fullfil all the *great Duties* of a Wife, a Miſtreſs, a Mother, and a Neighbour: But ſince thou haſt Ordained Man and Woman to be mutual Helps and dear Companions to one another; I hope *I do not ſin* in conſenting to change my State: And as I have choſe a Man of Religion and Virtue, of agreeable Temper, and a ſuitable Condition as far as my Judgment enables me, ſo I hope, through the divine Concurrence, our Marriage will be the Foundation of all that Happineſs which can flow from Society and true Friendſhip in this imperfect State.

I ask thy gracious Aſſiſtance, O God, in ſuch a perfectly chaſte and faithful, innocent and pleaſant Behaviour, as may always recommend me to my Conſort's beſt Regards, and trueſt Love, that his Heart may at all times ſafely truſt in me. Help me to ſtudy his Humour, and, as far as I may without Sin and Folly, comply with it;

Whatever

Whatever I find in it diſagreeable, may I Endeavour to amend and rectify by an Excellency of Temper, and a winning Behaviour; always ſtriving to cover his Failings. and often repreſenting to my ſelf in the beſt Light his Virtuous Qualities.

May we never give ear to any who wou'd raiſe the leaſt Uneaſineſs betwixt us, but let perfect Love caſt out Fear.

God forbid I ſhou'd ever ſink into an indolent, idle and trifling Temper, and ſaunter away Life in Unprofitable Vanities. Let the Principles of Religion diſpoſe me to all Prudence, Induſtry and Goodneſs in every Relation, that I may in my Houſe and Neighbourhood, be a Pattern of good Works.

If I am bleſſed with Children, and ſtand over Servants, help me to treat them all ſuitably to their Station, bringing them up in the ways of Wiſdom, and not ſuffering them to eat the *Bread of Idleneſs*. Children

I deſire my Houſe may be a *Houſe of God*, my Family a truly Chriſtian Family that we may live under an aweful Regard to thy Preſence, and in Expectation of future Judgment.

Now unto thee, O God, through the Merits and Paſſion of thy Dear Son, I commend my ſelf, my intended Spouſe, and all my Concerns, begging that whatever befal me, I may Unchangeably adhere to thee, and perſevere in the Love and Service of my Dear Redeemer, To whom be the Glory of all his Charitable Regards to a loſt World, now and for ever. *Amen.*

XXXVII. *A* PRAYER *fitted to the uſe of a Son or Daughter of a* Poor Family.

GReat God, thy Kingdom ruleth over all, and though the Lot of Families and Perſons

ſons ſeems to be thrown careleſly and by chance, yet the whole diſpoſing thereof is under thy Direction; Unſearchable are thy Judgments, they are quite above out of our ſight; Yet I am perſwaded the *Judge of all the Earth* does what is *Right*; And though many of thy Paths are *paſt finding out*, I deſire to wait till the Scheme of Providence is finiſhed, and thou ſhalt wind up all Human Affairs in Univerſal Judgment, when, I doubt not, the Beauty and Goodneſs of every Part of thy Adminiſtration will abundantly appear.

I find my ſelf brought forth in a *poor Dwelling*, and under *Parents as poor*, our Labour and our Fare are both hard, with Difficulty we get our Bread, and can ſcarcely obtain warm and decent Covering; While I ſee great Numbers living in Affluence and Plenty, and ſeemingly Unregardful of the Neceſſities of the Poor; This is ſometimes my Trouble, and tempts me to queſtion thy Providence; But God forbid I ſhou'd entertain and cheriſh any ſuch Thoughts; I am perſwaded thy *tender Mercies* are over *all thy Works*; that theſe ſeeming In-equalities in thy Dealings will one Day be removed, and Mankind put more upon a Level in a ſuitable Proportion to their preſent Behaviour,

I pray it may, therefore, be my great Care to behave well, while I am upon my Trial, that when this poor and wretched Life is over, I may be Rich in *Inheriting the Promiſes*, when I ſhall ſoon forget my Poverty, and remember my Miſery no more.

To this End, make me *eaſy and contented* with my preſent Condition, which thou haſt put me into; Make me *Diligent and Induſtrious* in my lawful Calling, as the way to a Bleſſing; Make me *True and Honeſt*, that the lowneſs of my Condition

dition may never put me upon unwarrantable Methods to mend it, which can only make it worſe; make me thankful my Mercies are ſo many, and the leaſt of them above my Deſert; make me chearful in Religion, and in taſting all the Fruits of thy Common Bounty, knowing that I ſerve a good Maſter in Heaven.

Check in me a *Murmuring Temper*, keep me from Quarrelling with thy Dealings, and lead me to conſider *how poor my Saviour was* out of Choice, and how many Thouſands in the World are *as poor as I*; that *my Sins* deſerve not only a few Years, but Everlaſting Poverty; that my Poverty in the World will not prevent my being *Rich in Grace*, nor bar me out of Heaven, where a poor Beggar is happy in *Abraham's* Boſom.

May theſe Conſiderations quiet and comfort my Spirit; and the lower I am in *Bodily Poſſeſſions*, may I be under the more ardent Concern to improve my Mind, by the Knowledge of God, and in Love to Chriſt, in Humility and Reſignation, in Charity and Faith, that minding the one thing needful, and chooſing the better Part, after I have finiſhed a State of Trial upon Earth, I may be with Chriſt in Heaven.

I might have had both *poor* and *wicked* Parents, which wou'd have doubled my Miſery; but, bleſſed be God, my Father and Mother, in their Low Eſtate, have found time to teach their Children the Knowledge of God, have kept up religious Worſhip, and have not been drawn into unrighteous Arts. I hope, as we truſt in thee, and endeavour to ſerve thee as well as we are able, thou wilt *never wholly forſake us*. Good God! let us never want Bread, nor be forc'd to go naked, or ſtarve with Cold,— but feed us

with Food Convenient for us, give us our daily Bread, and give us a *Mind* as low and humble as our Condition: Hear the Cries of a diſtreſſed Family, in thy own way and time raiſe us up Relief, and make us ſenſible of thy Goodneſs, that any Chriſtians take a compaſſionate Notice of us, and Miniſter to us, indue us with a grateful Spirit to thy ſelf and them.

And whatever we want, let us not want Pardon, Chriſt and Heaven; and however it fare with us on Earth, let us all ſeek an Intereſt in better Things than the Earth affords, even in the purchaſed Riches of the Redeemer, who will neither take a *Rich Sinner* into Heaven, nor ſhut a *poor Saint* out of it; whom, I hope, I love and ſerve, and to whom be Glory for ever. *Amen.*

XXXVIII. *A* Prayer *for the uſe of a Son or Daughter of* Rich Parents

GLorious God, thou art the great Father of the Creation, and Univerſal Benefactor to all Creatures, and art Rich in Mercy to all who call upon thee.

I am the Work of thine Hands, fearfully and wonderfully made, curiouſly wrought *before* I appeared in the World, and have been mercifully and kindly provided for *ſince* I came into it.

It is but a little while ago, that *I was not at all*, and if I never had come into Being, no wrong had been done me; and when thy Wiſdom reſolved to form me, I might have been brought forth in a Cottage, covered with Rags, barely fed, and hard work'd, expoſed to Hunger and Cold, and other Hardſhips, to which I ſee Hundreds of poor Creatures expoſed, who may be as good, or better than I. Yet

Yet I am born of wealthy Parents, who have with Care and Tenderneſs brought me up, I am well fed, well clad, well lodg'd, well attended, and every way well ſupplied; And, which I ſhou'd be moſt ſenſible of, I am *well taught*; my Parents ſpare no Care and Charge for my religious Education.

In an humble and thankful ſenſe of this Diſtinguiſhing Goodneſs, and of all thy Mercies both to my Body and Soul, *I bow down* my ſelf before thee; *I reſign* my ſelf to thee my Former, my Preſerver, my Benefactor, and indulgent Father; I offer thee *my Praiſes*, and deſire to glorify thee by the Fruits of an Obedient Life.

I am aſhamed I have *no earlier remembered* thee, the God of my Life, and that now I preſent my ſelf to thee ſo *little improved* in Virtue and Goodneſs, in Sacred Wiſdom and Knowledge, under ſo many Advantages; And that I have made *ſo poor returns* for Mercies ſo great and numerous.

I am aſhamed ſo much of my *Time* and my *Money* have been ſpent on Trifles and Vanities, and ſo little laid out for the good of my own Soul, or the Souls of others.

O God, open my Mind and turn my Heart, that the Wealth and Affluence of this World's good, in which I live, may never be a ſnare to me to lead me into a *Worldlineſs of Spirit*; may it never tempt my Heart from God, to the neglect of Religion and the concerns of my Soul, nor ever be abuſed by Luxury, Wantonneſs and a *Senſual Life*, leſt Sickneſs and Death ſurprize me in a looſe and unprovided Poſture, and after I have *lived Rich*, be forced to *die Poor*.

I own it is infinite Kindneſs in thee, O God, to ſend thy Son to teach us, in the midſt of

our Abundance, to *live Soberly, Righteouſly* and *Godly*; Let a powerful ſenſe of thy Love in Chriſt to me conſtrain me to *love* thee above all the World, to *cleave* immoveably to thee as my chief Good; to *ſurrender* my Will, my Deſires, my Actions to thy Holy Will; and for ever to *abide* in a Reſolution to pleaſe thee in the conſtant Exerciſes of Piety, Righteouſneſs, Temperance and Charity; And I beg theſe holy Diſpoſitions and Deſires may never languiſh and die in me, but grow into a ſettled Habit of religious Purity and Uſefulneſs.

Give me, *at preſent*, a Tenderneſs towards the poor miſerable Creatures round me, and a readineſs to help them as I am able: And if ever I become poſſeſſed of any ſhare of this World's Wealth, indue me with a largeneſs of Heart equal to my Ability, that I may be not only *rich in this World*, but *rich in good Works*, ready to diſtribute, willing to communicate, as the ſure way to provide an Everlaſting Habitation for my Soul, and to be *Rich for ever*.

Bring me under the Influence of my *Father's* and *Mother's* Example, who, I ſee, are conſtantly encouraging good Miniſters, diſtributing Books of Piety, aſſiſting honeſt Tradeſmen under Diſcouragements, helping the Poor, and every way, and every Day doing Good, according to the Ability God gives them; and are as conſtantly recommending a religious, thankful, juſt and charitable Temper to me and all their Children, as the ſureſt Foundation of our Happineſs here and for ever.

Make me Diligent in Buſineſs, and wiſely Frugal in Expences, denying my ſelf of Fine Dreſſes, Rich Diet, and all coſtly Ornaments; that I may have to ſpare for *him that needeth*; Knowing that I muſt give an Account how I have

have improved this my Talent of Worldly Wealth.

And ſeeing Riches expoſe to ſo many Snares and Dangers, I humbly beg that the Belief of thy Goſpel, and the Influence of thy bleſſed Spirit may keep me unſpotted from the World; that no Deſires after encreaſing Wealth, Pleaſures, Greatneſs or Power may deſtroy in me Love to God, or carry me away from my Duty to thee, or my Fellow-Creatures.

And ſeeing I know not what may be *'ere To-Morrow*; if in thy wiſe and juſt Providence thou ſhalt ſee fit to change the Face of Affairs in our Houſe, and reduce me to a *moderate* or a *mean* Condition in the World; may I, by Truſt in God, by Humility, by a Habit of Induſtry, by a Spirit of Self-denial, by a contented Frame of Heart, be able to *bear* it, and to *improve* it, that ſuch a Change may turn to my Everlaſting Good.

If I am continued in Plenty, may I not ſuffer Riches to *choak the Word*, and hinder my Fruitfulneſs; Let not the *Proſperity of Fools* deſtroy me, nor may I put off my ſelf with a *Worldly Portion*, when God offers me, in Chriſt, Riches Everlaſting.

Keep me from Haughtineſs and Pride, from High-Living and Wantoneſs, in a full Eſtate; May I never value my ſelf on the Account of outward and loſeable Poſſeſſions, and which are often the Portion of the Wicked; nor ever be tempted to *deſpiſe* the good and vertuous, becauſe they are poor: And God forbid I ſhou'd ever, either to gain or keep this World, hazard or loſe my precious Soul; but rather count all Dung and Loſs compared with the Excellencies of Chriſt, and the Glories of his Purchaſe; That ſo after all thou haſt done for me *upon Earth*,

I with

I with my dear Parents, Brothers *&c.*—— and all my Chriſtian Relations and Friends may meet *in Heaven*, and poſſeſs that Inheritance which will laſt for ever. All which I beg in the Name of Jeſus Chriſt the great Chriſtian Advocate, to whom be Glory for ever. *Amen.*

XXXIX. *A* PRAYER *to be uſed by Children whoſe Parents are in a* Middle *Condition.*

O Lord God! How great and manifold are thy Works! In Wiſdom haſt thou made them all; the Infinite *Variety* of them ſhew the Infiniteneſs of thine *Underſtanding*, the Fullneſs of thy *Power*, and thy perfect *Liberty* in Acting. The *Diſtributions* thou makeſt of the Bleſſings of thy Goodneſs ſhew thee to be *Sovereign* of the World, *Proprietor* of the Earth, and *Lord* over Men. Amidſt all the *Changes* and Alterations of the World, thou remaineſt *Unchangeable* in thy Nature and Will, and *Eternal* in thy Duration. And though thou haſt divided very *Unequal Portions* of Temporal Poſſeſſions to Men, thou art *Equally Bleſſed* in thy own Goodneſs and other Perfections, and diſpoſed to *make all Men Bleſſed* here, and Bleſſed for ever, if they wiſely improve the Station they are in, and the Bleſſings they at preſent enjoy.

Through thy great and undeſerved Goodneſs, I am in a *State* which the Experience and Teſtimony of all wiſe and good Men, and the Teſtimony of thy Word pronounce the *Beſt*; being born of Parents to whom thou haſt given *neither Poverty, nor Riches*; but by a Bleſſing on their honeſt Induſtry, haſt fed them and theirs with Food *convenient for us*; I praiſe thee for *this Mercy*, and for the *Senſe* I have that it is a Mercy. I ſee

I ſee ſo many Rich Men riding Poſt to Hell, encreaſing their Wealth and Power by Methods of Unrighteouſneſs, or falling into the Snares and Temptations of Luxury and Senſuality, of Pride and Vanity, of Looſeneſs and Debauchery growing forgetful of God, thoughtleſs and careleſs about their Souls: I ſee ſo little Religion, Righteouſneſs, Sobriety and Charity amongſt the Great that I have reaſon to bleſs God I am *not born rich*, bred in Delicacy and State, or loaden with Wealth.

On the other Hand, I ſee ſo many Poor brought up in Ignorance and Idleneſs, in Brutiſhneſs and ill Manners, in the Arts of Lying, Stealing and Defrauding, void of all ſenſe of God and Providence, deſtitute even of Humanity it ſelf, and oft in miſerable Want, that I have great reaſon to be thankful I am *not born poor*.

Great Father, give me that Evenneſs and Tranquility, Steadineſs and Sobriety of Mind, that Induſtry, Frugality Uprightneſs and Goodwill *to Man*; that Thankfulneſs *to God*; that Chearfulneſs and Serenity which ſuits my Condition; and let it be my Reſolution to ſerve thee, and my Saviour Jeſus Chriſt in the daily Exerciſes of theſe Virtues, under a conſtant Remembrance of thy great Kindneſs to me, in making my Lot ſo happy; and under a ſenſe of my daily Dependance upon thee, as the Father of all my Mercies.

Suffer not the Temptations of Proſperity or of Poverty, or any other, to enter and corrupt our Family, and turn it into a Houſe of Ungodlineſs and Vanity, which is yet, bleſſed be thy Name, a Houſe of Religion, Love and true Devotion: But ſo perpetually keep us in thy Way and Fear that we may at laſt join the holy

and

and the bleſſed Family of Heaven, where Religion and Love dwell and reign for ever-more. *Amen.*

XL. *The* PRAYER *of a* YOUNG *Man, Entering the* MINISTRY.

GReat God! By my Parents, and Friends, I hope, by the Act and Temper of my own Heart I am dedicated to ſerve thee in the Miniſtry of the Goſpel of thy Son.

But alaſs, *I am a Child*; How can I ſpeak for God? I am a Man of *Unclean Lips*, how ſhall I ſay, "*Here am I, ſend me.*"

I tremble at the Awfulneſs of that Miniſtry, whoſe Iſſue will be *Life* or *Death* to my ſelf, and to thoſe who hear me. Who is *Sufficient* to go on God's Errand, to entreat Souls to be reconciled to him, to beſpeak Hearts for Chriſt? Who is *Fit* to ſtand between the Living and the Dead, and intercede with God to ſpare Sinners.

I can do nothing in this Service, nothing acceptable to a Holy God; nothing worthy of Jeſus Chriſt; nothing ſaving to Souls, or ſatisfactory to my ſelf, unleſs thou *touch my Lips* and *my Heart*, that my *Iniquity* may be taken away, and my Sin covered: My Unholineſs will *ruin me*, if it be not pardoned; How can I go with Comfort to *my Studies*, or with Hope of Succeſs into the *Pulpit*, with my Guilt unremoved, and my Spirit unſanctified.

O God of Grace, mould my Heart anew, forgive my Sin; be with my Heart, and with my Mouth in all Tranſactions I ſhall be engag'd in between God and Souls. Fill *my Mouth with Arguments*, when I plead with Sinners to turn to God; Fill my *Soul with Reverence*, when I venture

venture to plead with a Holy God to pity, pardon and ſave Sinners; That ſo the Miniſtry of the Goſpel in my Hands may become Glorious, by being a *Miniſtration of the Spirit*, of Righteouſneſs, and of Life to Numbers of Souls; that I may be the happy Inſtrument, under God, of raiſing to Life many a *dead Soul*, and of awaking many a *careleſs Chriſtian*, and of finiſhing Grace in many a *Child of God*.

To prepare me for anſwering theſe *great Ends*, Endue my Soul with the Deepeſt Senſe of thine *All-ſeeing Eye* over me in all my Works, of the *Worth of Souls*, and of the *awful Account* I muſt give of my Life and Miniſtry to Jeſus Chriſt, my Maſter and Judge, in whoſe Name, and by whoſe Authority I go forth.

Make me ſenſible I can never acquit my ſelf *with Faithfulneſs* to *God* and *Jeſus Chriſt*, and to my *own Soul*, unleſs I am Faithful to the *Souls of Others*; In order that I may at laſt be *found Faithful*, work in me a true Love to Souls, and a tender Compaſſion over them; *Open mine Eyes* to ſee how great their Neceſſities are; and *break in upon my Heart* with Powerful Grace, that ſhall determine me to wait on my Miniſtry, which I am to receive of the Lord Jeſus, ſo as to fulfil it.

If I become a *Watchman* in *Iſrael*, aſſiſt me to give faithful Warning to Wicked Men, that I may be a means of *ſaving their Souls* from Hell; but if the wicked will not turn and live, may I deliver my own Soul.

If I become a *Shepherd* and *Paſtor*, may I feed the Flock of God with great Vigilance and Diligence, as under the Inſpection of the great Shepherd; that the *Flock* may grow, the *Building* be carried on, and the *Husbandry* of God thrive under my Hand.

As I hope thou haſt given me a *love to the Truth* as it is in Jeſus, I pray that no Temptatinos may ever prevail with me to corrupt the Word of God, or handle it deceitfully.

And in regard an *Unſerious Spirit*, a *Worldly Temper*, and a *Looſe Life* wou'd ſpoil all my work, God help me to look to *my Self*, as well as to my Doctrine, that after I have preached to *Others*, I *my Self* may not be caſt away: But may I be able to appeal unto God and Men as Witneſſes how holily, how juſtly, how unblamably I have behaved my ſelf.

If ever I am *Ordained* a Miniſter of the New Teſtament, and have the Miniſtration of the Seals of the Chriſtian Covenant committed to my Truſt, enable me Judiciouſly and with Fidelity to diſtinguiſh between the *Holy* and *Prophane*, and make a Difference between the *Clean* and the *Unclean*; and not countenance Sin by promiſcuous Admiſſions.

Deliver me from the Love of *filthy Lucre*, that in ſo holy a Miniſtry, I may not be governed by a *Worldly Principle*, and *Secular Views*; but learn to truſt God with my Bodily Support, while I am ſincerely engaged in his Service; And whatever State and Place thy Hand ſhall fix me in, make me therein Contented, never growing Ambitious of Worldly Preferment.

I pray, O God, that at all times my Behaviour may be mixed with that true Gravity, that innocent Chearfulneſs, and hearty Friendlineſs, that no one may *deſpiſe my Youth*.

Make me Gentle unto all Men, apt to teach, in Patience and Meekneſs inſtructing thoſe who oppoſe themſelves, in order to recover them from the Snare of the Devil.

I am ſenſible of great Deficiencies as to *Miniſterial Furniture*, but I hope thy Grace will be

be ſufficient for me, that though I am but an *Earthen Veſſel*, unworthy of ſo precious a Treaſure as the Truſt of Preaching the Goſpel, yet thou wilt make it appear that the *Excellency of the Power* which wins Souls is of God.

And while I am *giving up my ſelf* to the Sacred Office, and to Reading, Meditation and Prayer, in order to execute it as a Steward of God may *Succeſs* attend and encourage all my Labours, that I may ſee the great Deſign of *Chriſtianity*, and of the Chriſtian *Miniſtry* anſwering; by Mens turning from all Iniquity, by the general Reformation of Mens Tempers and Lives, and by the Prevalency of a Heavenly Spirit amongſt my Hearers.

And having my ſelf *ſet my Hand to the Plough*, may I never look back, leſt I loſe my Share in the Kingdom of God; but at the End of a Life devoted to God, and to the Intereſt of his Kingdom, when the *chief Shepherd* ſhall appear, may I receive a Crown of Glory, that fadeth not away, and ſhine as a Star in the Firmament of God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

XLI. *A* PRAYER *for the* LORD'S *Day, in the* MORNING.

O moſt glorious God! This is a Day which the Lord hath made, I will be glad, and rejoice in it: Thou didſt build the World in ſix Days, and reſt the ſeventh, to be an Example unto us, to engage us to devote one ſeventh part of our Time in celebrating thy Perfections and improving in Religion.

I bleſs thee for ſo wiſe and merciful an Inſtitution; I deſire to ſpend one day in ſeven in thy Courts, for I love the Habitation of thy

House, and the Place where thine Honour dwells.

I wou'd not be always busy in the World, and about the Body, but am desirous to have some Communion with thee, my God and Father, and to devote some Hours for opening *my Mind*, bettering my *Heart*, and governing my *Life*, in order to prepare me for the Everlasting Sabbath in Heaven; Chase away then all Worldly Affections, and raise my Soul above all *these little Things*, that I may begin the Day in the most devout Meditations, and all my Thoughts, Passions, Actions through the Progress of the Day be Holy and Unreproveable in thy sight.

May I never grow weary of the Sabbath, never spend it idly or unprofitably, but count a Day in thy House better than a thousand spent in Sin and Vanity, in Carnal Mirth and Folly.

I bless God my Dwelling is near thy House, where I sit under the Shadow of the Gospel with great Delight; never condemn me to an Uncomfortable Distance from it.

Dispose my Heart suitably to the Sacred Service of the Day; give me a Pleasure in the Thoughts of going up to the House of the Lord; and cause all the religious Exercises of the *Family* and the *Closet* to concur with those of *thy House*, to fill my Soul with Light and Goodness.

Assist me O God, in giving thee the Glory of all thy Works of Creation and Providence: And especially enable me to magnify thee — for raising up thy Son Jesus from the Dead on the first Day of the Week; for sending down the Holy Spirit on the same Day to enable the Apostles to preach the Gospel to all Nations, in their own Language; for instituting a Gospel Ministry; for meeting thy People, and blessing them on thy own Day.

May I be raiſed to a new Life of Holineſs and Righteouſneſs, in Conformity to Chriſt Riſing from the Dead.

Succeed the Goſpel of thy Son this Day, to me, and to many other Souls

Help thy Miniſters to ſpeak a Word in Seaſon to all their Hearers; and to offer up Prayers and Praiſes ſuitable to all Caſes.

Bring me to a *fixed Attention* in Prayer, and under the Word; and to a ſerioufneſs and Chearfulneſs of Heart in the divine Work of Singing; Let no Worldly Objects divert my Heart and Eyes, and diſ-qualify me for a Bleſſing

Cauſe me to love good Miniſters, to delight in thy Day, to take Pleaſure in the Word, and in all Means of fitting me for Heaven.

Make me *an Example* of a thoughtful, modeſt and lovely Behaviour to other Young People; And as I deſire to be a Companion of all who fear thy Name, I hope thou wilt never cut me off from the Society of thy People, but allow me Times of Aſſembling with them below, and take me at length into the great Aſſembly above, through Jeſus Chriſt, who was dead, but is alive, and lives for evermore, who has Redeemed us unto God by his Blood, that we might be Kings and Prieſts unto God, even the Father, to whom be all Praiſe, Honour and Glory now and for ever. *Amen.*

XLII. *A* PRAYER for the LORD's *Day, in the* EVENING.

O moſt good and gracious God, through thy Patience with me I am now finiſhing another Sabbath.

Though

Though thou art the High and Holy One who inhabiteſt Eternity, yet thou ſuffereſt Duſt and Aſhes to draw nigh unto thee; thou dwelleſt in humble repenting Hearts, who tremble at thy Word; and haſt promiſed to meet thy People in their Aſſemblies and bleſs them.

I praiſe thee, I have had another Day in thy Houſe, where I have met with good Chriſtians at the Word and Prayer; I pray, that I may not be a *forgetful Hearer*, but a *Doer* of the Word; and by an innocent and Fruitful Life adorn my Profeſſion, and commend the Doctrines of my Lord Jeſus unto *Others*; and may *my ſelf* feel the Joys of Uprightneſs and Sincerity, and find Religion my greateſt Pleaſure and Comfort. Cauſe the Heavenly Word, the Bleſſed Seed, which has been ſown this Day, to take root in my Heart, and the Hearts of many more, that we may bear the Fruits of Righteouſneſs, Peace, Love, Meekneſs and all Goodneſs.

Purify my *Mind* and Thoughts, that I may conceive aright of thee; purify my *Affections*, that I may love and delight in thee and thy Service; purify my Conſcience, that thereby all my Actions may be directed to thy Glory, and according to thy Will. Let the Worſhip of thy Day diſpoſe me to walk in thy Fear, and in all Duty to *Man*, through the whole of the Week: Let not the bleſſed Reports I have heard be all loſt in a Croud of vain Thoughts.

Forgive all my *Triflings* in thy Houſe, that I ſuffer'd my Heart ever to ſteal away after Vanity, while the Miniſter was praying or preaching, or the Aſſembly were Singing. Blot out all my *Lord's Day Sins*, through the Blood and Interceſſion of Jeſus Chriſt, that they may not appear againſt me at the great Day.

Strengthen

Strengthen my Reſolution better to ſpend future Sabbaths, to be more attentive, ſerious and thoughtful.

I adore thee, O God, for all the Wonderful Things I have heard this Day about *God*, his Creating, Preſerving and Governing the whole World; for what I have heard of *Jeſus Chriſt*, as Saviour of Men, as Head of the Church, and as Judge of the World; for what I have heard of the kind and powerful Aids of the *Holy Spirit*; for what I have heard of *Heaven*, that World of bleſſed Angels and holy Souls.

I wou'd fain be ready for that World, and humbly beg that every Sabbath on Earth may be ſo ſpent, as to prepare me for an Everlaſting Sabbath of Reſt and Joy in Heaven.

And now, O Lord, I once again commend my ſelf, Soul and Body, to thy Care and Keeping: Guard me this Night, keep me all the Week from Sin and Satan; May I riſe in the Morning with a purpoſe to practiſe *Every Day*, what I have heard *this Day*; that a Life of Univerſal Obedience to thy Goſpel may Evidence my Sincerity.

Give ſucceſs to all thy Miniſters; Watch over all thy Churches, and grant them Reſt and Peace, Light and Comfort; Defend my Native Country, and hinder the ſpreading of ſin in it, which alone can ruin it; Direct the King and Queen in their great Affairs, and make them Inſtruments of Reformation: Bleſs my Father's Houſe, and aſſiſt me in all future *Duty*, and to be ready for all *Trials*, that I may come off at laſt a Conqueror over all the Temptations of the World, over Sin Satan and Death, and riſe into a bleſſed Immortality, through the Grace and Power of that God, who raiſed

up

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up his Son from the Dead, To whom be all Honour and Glory aſcribed, now and for ever, *Amen.*

XLIII. *A 2d.* PRAYER *for the* LORD's *Day, in the* MORNING.

O moſt High and Holy God, who dwelleſt in Eternity; Bleſſed and Happy art thou in thy ſelf; and Bleſſed and Happy are they who ſtand continually in thy Preſence, Admiring, Loving, and Obeying thee: An Happineſs too high for us, who dwell in Houſes of Clay; But ſeeing thy Goodneſs has appointed this Day for converſing with thee, Through the Mediation of thy Son; I wou'd aſpire towards thee, and come as near as I can to thy Throne.

O Heavenly Father, inſpire my Soul with ſuch delightful Thoughts of thee, and ſuch a transforming Love to thee as may fill me with unſpeakable Joy and Satisfaction. Touch my Heart with ſuch a lively ſenſe of thy Majeſty, as may fix my wandering Thoughts, raiſe up my dull Affections, and kindle my cold Deſires, While I am hearing, praying and praiſing in thy Temple. May nothing be ſo Marvelous in my Eyes, as thy exceeding great and tender Love in Chriſt Jeſus towards helpleſs Sinners: May I improve the happy Leiſure of thy own Day in admiring Contemplations of redeeming Love and Grace.

How deeply am I in thy Debt, O Father, for the *Care of my Parents*, who early led me to thy Houſe, and have with unwearied Pains taught me the knowledge of thee, and helped me in my way to Heaven. I hope I have alſo had ſome gracious Aids of thy *good Spirit*, and

praiſe thee for all his Viſitations, by which he has wrought any good Diſpoſitions or Reſolutions in my Heart. May the ways of Religion, and of thy Service be always ways of Pleaſantneſs to me, and thy word ſweeter than Honey.

I beg I may never grow weary of the delightful Employment of praiſing thee: And that I may be conſtant and chearful in thy Service; Cure all the Vanity of my Mind, the Mutability of my Thoughts, the Worldlineſs of my Affections, every unruly Paſſion, and diſcontented Temper.

May I never deceive my ſelf with the *Shadows* of Religion, but *feel* its Power changing my Heart, and *practiſe* all its Laws in a Virtuous Holy Life.

Let no Temptation prevail with me to injure my Neighbours, to ſeek Unrighteous Gains and Pleaſures, or to prefer my Body to the Intereſt of my Soul.

I bluſh, O Lord, to lift up my Eyes to Heaven, and appear in thy Sight, who have ſo oft preferred the ſhort Pleaſures of Sin and Folly to thy Favour and Service, and to the true Pleaſures of Religion and a good Conſcience: I abhor myſelf for my Stupidity and Vileneſs, O that my Head were Waters, and mine Eyes a Fountain of Tears, that I might weep bitterly for my unjuſt and unkind Requitals of thine infinite Love in Chriſt Jeſus; fill me with the ſad Remembrance of my Folly, that I ſhou'd prefer any thing to thy great offers in the Goſpel.

Take off my Heart from every thing that *will* not let me Love thee with *all* my Heart, *all* my Mind, and *all* my Strength.

I might have been *in Hell* weeping and wailing there, when I yet enjoy Sabbaths, and a Place in thy Houſe, to Love and Praiſe thee

there; O do thou write all thy Laws in my Heart, that I may no more Sin againſt thee; Let the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt cleanſe me from all Sin, by my obtaining a Goſpel Pardon; and enable me to walk as thy Child, in great Fear of Sin, and in Circumſpection that I fall no more: Perfectly bend my Heart to do all thy Pleaſure.

To thee I reſign this Heart, accept O Lord God, the poor Offering, and grant me Aſſiſtance from above to make good this Dedication of my ſelf; Confirm me in my good Reſolutions; Arm me againſt all the Aſſaults of the Enemy, that he never prevail over my Inconſtancy and Weakneſs. Keep me in a State of Reconciliation with thy ſelf, and in a Temper meek and humble towards all Men; Make me Lowly in Heart, Word and Action; Merciful and Kind; Pure in Thought and Intention, and Peaceful in my whole Deportment; And may theſe Virtues rooted and habited in my Soul, procure me a ſettled Tranquility of Spirit.

O that Heaven may be my *chief Aim*, and all the Difficulties in my way overcome by thy ſufficient Grace; And, with a Mind even in Proſperity and Adverſity, may I be waiting for the times of Refreſhment from the Preſence of the Lord; and, by encreaſing in all Goodneſs, be gradually growing fit for thy Salvation in Jeſus Chriſt my Saviour, who is able to ſave to the uttermoſt all who come unto God through him, to whom be the Glory of his great and merciful Undertaking hence-forward and for ever. *Amen.*

XLIV. *A 2d* PRAYER for the LORD's *Day, in the* EVENING.

O Lord of Heaven and Earth, I proſtrate my ſelf before thee this Evening of thy Day, and in

in all Humility of Soul, adore thee, the great Poſſeſſor of the Univerſe, who haſt thought ſuch Unworthy Creatures as me worth the Expence of the Blood of *thy dear Son*, the Aſſiſtance of *thy Spirit*, the Miniſtry of *thy Angels*, the Reports of *thy Goſpel*, the Bleſſings of *thy Sabbaths*.

How aſtoniſhing is thy kindneſs towards undone periſhing Sinners! Can I ever prefer any thing in my Eſteem, Choice, Deſire, and Delight to thee, and thy Favour?

Awake, O God of Grace, awake in my Mind a continual ſenſe of thine infinite Compaſſions; Fix my Heart upon the great, unſeen, Eternal Enjoyments which thy Love has prepared in Chriſt Jeſus for thoſe who love thee. May I feel the Happineſs of loving thee, ſerving thee, and cleaving to thee, againſt every Temptation which may draw me from thee.

As I have been with thee in thy Houſe, cauſe my Mind to be ever ſtayed on thee, my Heart to be lifted up towards thee, and in ſerving thee faithfully, fortified againſt all Diſcouragements. O that the ſolid and laſting Pleaſures of Religion may cauſe me delightfully to keep all thy Commandments, and chearfully fill up all the Duties of my Place.

I would bleſs thee with all my Soul for what I have ſeen and felt and taſted of God this Day, for all the holy Thoughts, Affections, and Purpoſes thy Word and Prayer have raiſed in my Heart: Thou haſt prevented me with thy Grace, and done me good before I asked it, that I may be moved to ask the more from a God, who gives liberally, and upbraids not the moſt unworthy asker.

How exceeding rich is thy Grace to Men in Chriſt Jeſus! O that by a ſteady Obedience,

by a conſtant, uniform Life of Holineſs and Fruitfulneſs I may manifeſt the ſincerity of my Thankfulneſs to God, and to Jeſus Chriſt my Lord; And when I have done all acknowledge I am but an unprofitable Servant.

Satisfy my Hungry Soul, O God of all Fullneſs, with thy rich Love, Create in me Hope in thy Goodneſs, conform me to thy Juſtice Purity and Holineſs.

Forgive me, O Father, that my Thoughts Affections and Devotions towards thee are ſo *few*, ſo *ſhort*, ſo *cold*; that I have at any time *loved the World*, The Trifles and Pleaſures of it *more than God, Chriſt and Heaven*; that I have purſued with greater Eagerneſs the Enjoyments of a *Dying Life*, than Everlaſting Poſſeſſions.

I am aſhamed, and even tremble to think with what *Indifferency* I hear and receive the Meſſages of Salvation by Chriſt; and am ſo little *melted* with the Beams of God's Unſpeakable Love in him; that I ſo *imperfectly imitate* ſo unſpotted an Example as the Temper and Life of my Lord; that I have ſo little ſerious ſenſe of the *Worth* of my Soul, of the *Weight* of Eternity, and of the *Certainty* and *Greatneſs* of the future purchaſed Glory; that I have no deeper a ſenſe of the *Evil of Sin*, which I ſee ſo ſeverely condemn'd in the Death of thy Son.

Succeed, O good God, thy Word and Prayer, and all other Methods to clear up my *Underſtanding* of divine Things, to poſſeſs my *Soul* with ſo ſtrong a Love to thee and thy ways, that all the vain Glories of this World may in vain ſolicit my Affections, and to direct my *Life* into a hearty and continued Submiſſion to thy Holy Laws, and thy Providential Diſpoſals; that after my Sabbaths on Earth are fi-

niſhed

niſhed, I may go ſpend a perpetual Sabbath in Heaven, with Jeſus Chriſt my Redeemer. *Amen*

XLV. *A* YOUNG *Perſon's* MORNING PRAYER *on any Day.*

Monday

BLeſſed God, Thou haſt once more unſealed mine Eyes, looſed all my Senſes, and reſtored me to a ſtate of Thinking and Action. I adore the Power and Goodneſs which has kept me the laſt night, which has kept me from being burnt in my Bed, from Diſtempers, from Cruel Enemies, Viſible and Inviſible; which has kept me *out of Hell.*

Many Souls are gone this night into Eternity, while I yet live; Let this Forbearance and Patience of God lead me to repent and live better, that I may lie down every Night better prepared for the other World than I riſe in the Morning.

I am thankful I ſee the Light of another Day I beg Grace to Work while it is Day, and the the Light ſhines: becauſe Night, Darkneſs, and Death are coming when none can Work.

I deſire every Day to do the Duties of the Day, to do ſomething for God, for my Soul, and for the good of others, ſeeing my Days are ſhort and few.

Enable me to ſee the beſt and fitteſt Seaſons both for getting and doing Good, and incline my Heart to improve them. May I walk ſoberly, as a *Child of the Day*; may I think, act, and uſe all my vital Powers for the Honour of God, and the Benefit of Men.

Preſerve me from the Snares and Dangers of the Day, and from the Sins I am moſt apt to fall into; Let Satan gain no Advantage over me this Day. I fear contracting any Guilt which may

may make me uneaſy at Night; Of my ſelf I cannot preſerve my own Innocency, but I hope thy Grace will, in all Hours of Danger, be ſufficient for me.

Teach me to carry it modeſtly and humbly to all about me; dutifully to my Superiors. lovingly to my Equals, and uſefully to my Inferiors.

I pray, O God, that my Mind may be improving in all Knowledge and Virtue, and make me at all times more ſolicitous about *my Soul* than *my Body*.

I know not what this, or any Day may bring forth, but I am eaſy that *my Times are in thy Hands*, O good and gracious God, and I hope thou wilt prepare me for whatever ſhall come to paſs.

To thee I give up my ſelf, preſerve me, *Soul* and *Body*, to thy Heavenly Kingdom, through the Mediation of Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

XLVI. *A* YOUNG *Perſons Evening* PRAYER.

Monday.

BLeſſed God, Thou who formedſt me wonderfully in the Womb, and haſt preſerved me ever ſince I hung upon my Mother's Breaſts, haſt now mercifully kept me in another Day; Thy Thoughts of Love towards me cannot be numbered.

Through thy Goodneſs I am fed and cloathed; Thou keepeſt all my Bones, maintaineſt my Health, governeſt my unwary Steps, and haſt delivered me from many unſeen Dangers: I have eſcaped a thouſand Miniſters of Death, which have this Day ſeized many Children and Young People. Many are dead while I live; and bleſſed be God, I live with Parents

rents who love me, and teach me good Things every Day, who are conſtantly inſtructing admoniſhing, counſelling me for my preſent, and everlaſting Advantage. O that I had improved better the Bleſſings of my Birth and Education.

I thank thee O Father in Heaven, who haſt this day kept me from Sin, and didſt not leave me to my ſelf, when I was tempted.

Whatever thou haſt ſeen amiſs in my Temper, my Paſſions, my Words, my Actions, towards my Parents, my Brothers and Siſters, Servants or Companions, Good God, forgive in Chriſt Jeſus; ſhew me my Faults, and help me to behave better——another *Day*, and *every Day*

Through thy good Hand upon me, I am now come to the end of *this Day*; I am going to lie down, and bleſs God I have a comfortable Bed to ſleep in, I deſire to lie down in Peace with God, that if I ſhou'd ſleep *my laſt*, and awake in this World no more, I may go to God, and live with Chriſt for ever.

My *Soul and Body* I commit to thy Care; ſend down an Angel to guard my Bed, and all my Father's Houſe; and let thy Miniſtring Spirits defend and keep in ſafety all thy People when aſleep.

May I be ever under the Eye and Care of thoſe great, wiſe, and good Beings; and do nothing to offend them, and cauſe them to depart from me.

Prepare me to ſleep in the Duſt, and to awake in Glory; Since as ſurely as I put off *theſe Cloaths*, ſo ſurely muſt I e're long put off *this Body*.

And as I hope to awake and dreſs in the Morning, ſo may I one day awake out of the Grave

Grave and be dreſſed in Robes of Eternal Glory, when Chriſt ſhall come again to my Salvation. Whom having not ſeen, I love, and in whom though I ſee him not, yet believing, I rejoice; And to whom be the Glory of all his Perfections, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

XLVII. *A 2d. Morning* PRAYER,

Tueſday

ALmighty God, with thankful Praiſe and Joy I meet the Light of another Morning; how pleaſant a thing it is for mine Eyes to behold the Sun, ſhining in its morning brightneſs, after I have comfortably ſlept my Nights Sleep; Raiſe up from hence my meditations to that Unſpeakable joy and pleaſure which the bleſſed above poſſeſs in ever beholding thy Face, Heavenly Father, and the Face of the Lamb, ſhining brighter, ten thouſand times brighter to the Inhabitants of Heaven, than the Sun in the Firmament ſhines to the Inhabitants of this Earth.

As the returning Sun *in the Morning* diſpels all the Darkneſs of the Night, ſo may the Light of thy Word, with which I converſe from time to time diſpel the Darkneſs and Ignorance of my Mind.

And as the returning Sun in *the Spring* unbinds the Earth, and makes it fruitful after Winter Froſts; ſo, O Lord, unbind my Heart, open the Springs of Love to thy ſelf, and warm it with the Influence of the Sun of Righteouſneſs ſhining in the *Glorious Goſpel.*

How diſmal wou'd it be to live on Earth without the Sun! ſo diſmal a ſtate wou'd our Souls be in without a Revelation from God, which is a Light ſhining in dark Regions: As diſmal and uncomfortable as a perpetual Night, or a continual

continual Winter wou'd be, ſo diſmal and uncomfortable wou'd it be to live for ever without the Knowledge and the Love of God.

Shine then, O Father of Lights, ſhine into my dark Mind, ſhine upon my hard Heart, and kindle there Heavenly Light, and every Sacred Paſſion; that I may walk all the Day in the Light of thy Countenance, and lie down poſſeſt of thy Favour at Night; And by daily Converſation with God, may I grow in Rectitude of Soul, and in all Holineſs of Mind, till I am fitted to behold thy Face in Righteouſneſs, and to be ſatisfied, when I awake at laſt in thy Likeneſs.

As all thy Works are every day praiſing thee, I wou'd join my poor Voice with the Hoſts of Heaven, and the holy Inhabitants of the Earth in giving Glory to thee as Creator, King, and Friend of the Univerſe.

Every Day brings with it the Returns of Mercies and Benefits more than I can number; help me, as well as I am able, to count them over; and may I feel in my Breaſt a grateful ſenſe of all thine unſpeakable Love and Goodneſs, eſpecially as appearing in Chriſt Jeſus.

I beg his Goſpel may every where ſucceed to the rooting of all Ungodlineſs, Unrighteouſneſs and Intemperance out of the Earth: But whatever Others do, may I, by Reading and Thinking on that Goſpel, be determin'd on the ſide of Virtue and Holineſs, againſt all Sin; that in hope, and without Preſumption, I may commit my ſelf, my Dwelling Place, my Studies and Labours to the Divine Protection, and not beſool my ſelf, when I Profeſs to truſt in God.

May the holy Thoughts, which now poſſeſs my Soul, mingle with all the Buſineſs of the Day, lie down with me at Night, and awake in me every Morning. O Holy

Help me daily to *walk with God*, in a Courſe of Holy Living, and never ſuffer me to give way to ſuch looſe Thoughts, ungoverned Paſſions, fooliſh Talking, or irregular Conduct, as if I were out of thy Sight, had eſcaped thine Eye, or cou'd evade thy Judgments: But fill my Soul with ſuch Apprehenſions of thine infinite *Greatneſs* and Majeſty, and ſuch a belief of thine Univerſal Preſence, as ſhall make me dread Iniquity; and fill me with ſuch Apprehenſions of thine infinite *Goodneſs*, as ſhall make it my Delight to pleaſe, ſerve and imitate thee.

Forgive, Merciful God, all my paſt Deadneſs, Coldneſs, Dulneſs, Luke-warmneſs, Indifferency and Hypocriſy in every Chriſtian Duty, either towards thy ſelf, or towards Men; Deliver me from ſo dangerous Tempers, and from every other Temper, which wou'd hinder the Acceptance of my Prayers: And may my Prayers, and all other my poor Oblations be, as the Prayers and Services of the Upright are, thy Delight; for the ſake of Chriſt Jeſus, in whoſe Name I ſum up all my Requeſts, ſaying, *Our Father who art in Heaven.* &c.

XLVIII. *A 2d.* EVENING PRAYER.

Tuesday.

GReat and good Lord! thy Loving kindneſs is repeated every Morning, and thy Faithfulneſs every Evening, and the Out-goings of both are made to rejoice with me. I wou'd give all the Honour, Glory and Praiſe, all the Obedience, Love and Service I am capable of, to thee my great Benefactor, in whom I every Day live, and move, and ſubſiſt; And rejoice I am a *reaſonable Creature*, fitted and al-

lowed

lowed to Converſe with ſo holy a Majeſty; who made me what I am, and who art *daily* loading me with thy Benefits, and making thy Goodneſs to paſs before me.

I have found thee where ever and when ever I ſought thee: I have found thee *in thy Word* and at *Prayer*, on *my Bed*, and at *my Table*, in *my Buſineſs* and *Viſits*, at *Home* and *Abroad*, in *my Cloſet*, and in *holy Aſſemblies*: I have found the Comforts of *thy Scriptures*, the Care of *thy Providence*, and manifold Tokens of *thy Fatherly Regard*: In *my Birth*, and ever ſince I had *my Being*, *have I taſted liberally of thy Bounty*; Wild *India* might have been my native Country, I might have been cheated with the *Turkiſh Alcoran*, or have been bred up in the Blindneſs, Cruelties, Idolatries and Fopperies of the Church of Rome; but better things have been ordained for me, in the midſt of which I yet live. O that all this Grace and Goodneſs may not be loſt on me, by its being neglected or abuſed by me; but cauſe ſerious Meditations on it to produce in me a greater Likeneſs to thee, in the beſt Principles, Diſpoſitions, and Practiſes; and may the Image of thy Holineſs, Righteouſneſs and Goodneſs appear every Day, fairer in my Soul, and more beautiful in thy Sight, and the Sight of all Men.

By this growing Likeneſs to God, may all my miſtaken *Judgments* of the worth of Things be corrected, all my corrupt *Tempers* cured, all my irregular *Actions* amended, that I may live hereafter more acceptably to thee my God; more uſefully in the World, and poſſeſs more Peace in my own Breaſt; and may every Day Sing of thy Mercies, yea Sing Aloud of thy Righteouſneſs; and may every Day be making ſome Preparation for that Eternity, towards

which I am every Day drawing nearer.

With Sorrow and Shame I confeſs I have been ſtrangely negligent of *my God*, *my Saviour*, *my Soul*, *my chief Concerns*; And now that I begin to look and to move towards Heaven, how ſlowly do I move? how little is the good I either do for others; or receive my ſelf; how poorly do I ſpend my Time, and how much of it do I ſadly mis-ſpend!

Lord, quicken me in my Work, aſſiſt me in my daily Walk; grant me the Remiſſion of all *my Sins*, through the Blood and Interceſſion of Jeſus Chriſt; Forgive the Sin of this Day, let me not lie down unpardon'd, unreconcil'd to thee, leſt I die in my Iniuqity, and periſh in my Sin.

And as I wou'd ever hope for *thy Pardon*, enable me to practiſe Repentance and a new Life; convince me how reaſonable the Terms of Pardon are, ſeeing the *hardeſt Thing* thy Goſpel requires is, to deſtroy thoſe Enemies, which wou'd otherwiſe deſtroy me.

And as I wou'd hope for *Happineſs* make me to chooſe it in thee, in thy Love and Favour, where, and where only, it is to be found; and in which Angels and glorified Souls are happy.

And I pray that many others, in all Places may be brought over into a penitent, pardon'd and happy State; eſpecially *my young Companions* and Acquaintance, who are yet too much Strangers to thee; make them and me far more ſolicitous what will become of our *Souls* in Eternity than how our *Bodies* ſhall fare in time.

Make *thy Word* and *Prayer*, and all other Methods *thy Wiſdom and Love* Ordains, effectual to convince, change, reform Young People, that the Intereſt of true Religion may live and thrive in the nexr Generation. And

And O that I might be able to drop a word here and there to do any Soul good; however enable me to become *an Example* of an Innocent, Spotleſs, Uſeful Behaviour to all I Converſe with; Make me a Bleſſing in the Family and Neighbourhood; and may I lie down this Night, and every Night, in that holy Compoſure of Mind and Truſt in God, in which I ſhall deſire to die: Grant me thy Protection during ſleep, and thy Direction in all my wakeful Employments; and Acceptance at laſt for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, who is at thy Right Hand, and who will come again in Power and great Glory, to Judge the World, to whom be aſcribed Praiſes for ever and ever. *Amen.*

XLIX. *The 3d. Morning* PRAYER.

Wednesday

GLorious God! Thou, our great Creator and *Supreme King*, giveſt us freer Acceſs to thee, than the Kings of the Earth do to their Subjects, who are their Fellow-Creatures: And the meaneſt Creature is as welcome to thee as the greateſt King.

No Father is more ready to give good Gifts to his Children, than thou, the *Great Father* of Mankind, art to give thy Holy Spirit to thoſe who ask it. This Goodneſs of thy Nature, and theſe Declarations of thy Word encourage me, a poor Sinner, to offer my ſelf and my Prayer to thee this Morning.

Death might have arreſted me in the Night, and I might have awoke in the Flames of Hell, but, through thy Long Suffering, I awake in Health, and ſee all Things around me juſt as I left them with thee over-Night; for thy Hand ſupports the Univerſe, and keepeſt every Thing in

in its Place: On thy Power and Providence I and all Creatures depend, and for the Continual Exercise of thy Goodness and Care about me, and the whole World, I owe thee, O great Creator, all the Praise and Service *I am able* to pay, and desire to render to thee *all I shall be able* to pay through a whole Eternity.

All I have is thy free Gift, and all is in thy Power to remove at thy Pleasure; the Light, the Sleep, the Health I possess is thine, together with my Peace, my Comforts and my Hopes; These *may* all be *justly* taken away, and shou'd I go on in Sin, they *will* all be *certainly* taken away: Convert me then to Holiness, give me an Interest in Christ's Purchase, a Part in Eternal Life; and that I shall never lose: and let thy Mercy be upon me now, and at last, according as I hope in thee.

By Sin I am become *odious* to thy Purity, and *obnoxious* to thy Justice, but I come to thee for Grace to *cure*, and for Mercy to *cover* my Iniquity, that it may not be my Death, nor arise to my Condemnation hereafter.

As I am *daily Sinning* against thee, can I do less than, by daily Repentance and Prayer, to seek thy Pardon: As I am *every Day fed* with thy Good Creatures, and cloathed with thy Wool and Flax, and taught out of thy Word, what can I do less than every Day bless thy Name: As *every Day I need thy Grace*, and depend on thy Bounties, can I do less than every Day offer up my humble Supplications to thee: As I *daily see thy Greatness*, Power, and Wisdom, and other thy Glories, what can I do less than daily admire thee, adore thee, and pay my Homage to thee.

Accept me, O God, in all these my Approaches to thee, and may pious Meditations, and a holy

holy Converſation bring me into a State and Frame ſuitable for thine Acceptance,

I am ſenſible thou needeſt neither me, nor any Creature thou haſt made, for thy *Nature* is without Original, thy *Life* is without Want, thy *Happineſs* Independent, thy *Knowledge* Univerſal, thy *Preſence* Unlimmitted, thy *Greatneſs* Unconceivable, thy *Duration* can never fail, thy *Habitation* is Inacceſſible, thy *Mind* Unchangable, thy *Operation* without Aſſiſtance, thy *Monarchy* without Succeſſion, and all thine *Excellencies* are perpetual; what Service can I offer or what Merit can I plead before the Face of ſo Great and Glorious a God.

But I offer my Beſt, my All, my poor Unworthy Self; knowing thou art as Good, as thou art Great, and hoping that, through an appointed Mediation I ſhall find Grace in thy Sight.

And I Glorify thee for *that Mediation*, and Glorify thy Son, who ſo wonderfully condeſcended, when he took on him the *humble* Office of ſaving the World, and the *arduous* Task of Reconciling Guilty and Rebellious Men to God.

I earneſtly pray that his Goſpel may every where find Acceptance, and gain ground againſt all the Powers of Darkneſs, and the Prevalency of Sin. As thy Son is, *in Right*, Univerſal Lord, may he become ſo *in Fact*, by the Univerſal Submiſſion of all Hearts to his mild and merciful Government, his wiſe and juſt Laws.

Aſſiſt thoſe who Miniſter this Goſpel; that numerous young Hearts, and amongſt others, *mine*, may be fully gain'd over to Chriſt. Supply all Churches with faithful and able Miniſters of the New Teſtament; when the Prophets die, let not the Spirit of the holy Pro-

phets

phets retire either from their People, or from their Succeſſors in the Miniſtry; but do thou, O God, with whom is the Reſidue of the Spirit, continue thy Gifts and Graces, thy Preſence and Power in all Chriſtian Aſſemblies

Under Goſpel Miniſtrations cauſe Religion to flouriſh in my Soul, and make me fruitful every Day, in every good Work, till I am ready for the Heavenly City, which God has prepared for thoſe who Love him, and on that Account is not aſhamed to be called their God, To whom be all Glory, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

L. *The* 3*d.* Evening. Prayer.

Wednesday

MOſt glorious and holy Lord God! thy Holineſs and Juſtice obliges thee to be a *Sin-avenging*, as thou art a *Sin-hating* God; thou declareſt, thou art angry with the Wicked every Day, and threateneſt to wound the hoary Head, and to break the Hairy Scalp of ſuch who go on in their Treſpaſſes; Neither *Old Age*, nor *Youth* can exempt ſtubborn Sinners from appearing at thy Bar; Thou haſt prepared Stripes for the Back of Fools; and impenitent Sinners are as Stubble before the Conſuming Fire of thy Diſpleaſure.

May I then be perſuaded, by the Terrors of God, to flee from the Wrath to come, by true Repentance and a thorough Reformation, that I may be bleſſed with the Bleſſedneſs of that Man, whoſe Tranſgreſſions are Forgiven, whoſe Sins are covered, and unto whom the Lord imputeth not Iniquity.

To me belongeth nothing but Confuſion of Face, for this Day's Sin, and for the Sin of all my

my paſt Days; but with thee, O Lord, is Forgiveneſs, that thou may'ſt be feared; Exerciſe thy free and great Mercy in my Forgiveneſs, and cauſe me to Relinquiſh whatever I wou'd have thee to Pardon: As I wou'd not have thee to leave one Sin *Unpardoned*, may I not dare to leave one Sin *unrepented* of; nor dare to mock and affront the great God, by asking him to remit Sins, which I go on wilfully to commit.

Cleanſe me from all my *Secret* Sins, which I have made a ſhift to hide from the Eyes of the World; nor ſuffer *Preſumptious* Sins to have Dominion over me; which wou'd intercept the Rays of thy Countenance, and hinder my Entrance into thy Heavenly Kingdom.

Though I am able to make *no Atonement* for my Sins paſt, nor have *any Ranſome* to offer for my Soul; Yet it is my Comfort, and Ground of Hope, that thou aſſureſt us of thy having accepted the Atonement which Jeſus Chriſt made in the behalf of all penitent Sinners; and that thou art as much Honoured by his Obedience to the Death, as thou waſt Diſhonoured by the Sin and Diſobedience of Man: Give me a ſaving Claim to the Benefits of his Sacrifice; and by a communicated Spirit prepare me for that great Goodneſs Chriſt has purchaſed, and which thou haſt laid up for them who fear thee.

I have already taſted that the Lord is Gracious; O that he wou'd vouchſafe me ſuch Converſe and Intercourſe with himſelf, as will ſet me even a longing after the more immediate and un-interrupted Communion with, and Enjoyment of thee, with the Saints above, My Heart pants after thee, O God, O that I cou'd come nigh, even to thy Seat; draw me, and I will run after thee; help me to Evidence my Love to thee, by growing in Acquaintance with thee, and by

a conſtant Doing thy Will on Earth, as the Angels do it in Heaven.

As thy Ways are all Pleaſantneſs, and thy Paths Peace, grant I may never admit a Thought againſt Religion, but always admire, and always approve the Reaſonableneſs, Wiſdom and Beauty of Goſpel Requirements and Inſtitutions. May a ſenſe of Duty, and my partaking liberally of thy Bounty every Day fill me with ardent Love to thee, and to all Righteouſneſs, that I may delight to do thy Will, and rejoice in the Hope of Immortal Life, to reward my poor worthleſs Labours in this Life.

I beg that the Daily Practiſe of Duty may make it Con-natural and Eaſy to me; and that thou wilt manifeſt thy powerful Grace, through the Goſpel, in conquering my Will; that I, who am not able of my ſelf, to connect two good thoughts together, or to go through any good Work may, by the Help of thine Ordinances, go from Strength to Strength, and from one degree of Chriſtian Perfection to another; and ſo run my great Race, as to obtain the Heavenly Prize: and may progreſſive Holineſs and Uſefulneſs be a growing Evidence of my Title to it.

Cauſe thy daily Providential Diſpenſations, whether afflictive or proſperous, to be ſo many Spurs to quicken me in my Preparations for Everlaſting Reſt: And prepare my Mind, by Holy Truſt and Fortitude, for what every Night or Day may bring forth, for all unknown Events, yet in the womb of Time: Though thou ſhould'ſt viſit me, or my Friends, with *terrible Things*, yet let not theſe tempt me, or them, to forſake thee, or think ill of thy Service, ſince they will all be *in Righteouſneſs*, in Wiſdom, and I hope, in Love.

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I desire to make thee my Choice and my chief good in Prosperity and Adversity, who hast enough to supply all my Wants, nor hast at all the Less, for thy large Communication and Charities. I wou'd choose as the Object of my Trust an All-sufficient God; who can and will be my Portion, when every thing else fails; And this I wou'd do, upon the Encouragement of *Mercies received*; in an humble and thankful Sense of which, I am fal'n down before thee this Evening, to express my Dependance upon thee, to pay my Duty to thee, to renew my Vows and Engagements to be thine, ever thine.

And now, O Lord, I praise thee, with all my Soul, for all thou hast done for me for preventing and sparing Mercies, for Bodily and Spiritual Mercies, and for bearing with me another Day.

Promote the great Work of Reformation in the World: Take *Zion's* Part against all her Enemies; Make this a Land married to the Lord, and dwell in it; Make this House *Bethel*, a House of God, and abide amongst us; Preserve me, and all of us, this Night; And, by raising us up to new Life and Health in the Morning, give us an Emblem of the Resurrection to Life Everlasting, through Jesus Christ, our only Redeemer and Advocate. *Amen*.

LI. *The* 4*th*. Morning ~~Evening~~ Prayer.

Thursday

GReat and good God! As thy *Greatness* is no Disadvantage or Hindrance to thy Goodness, so is thy *Goodness* no Disparagement to thy Greatness; but thy Perfections illustrate and cast a Glory on each other.

Do thou so exalt and compose my Mind, by Meditations on thee, that I may possess the most

lively ſenſe of thy Glorious Perfections, when I adore thee; and the moſt *delightful Remembrance* of thy Mercies, when I give thee Thanks, and the moſt *ardent* and *ſincere Deſires* to be conformed to thy Will, when I hear or read thy Word; and the moſt *perfect Reſignation*, when I offer my ſelf to thee; For I ſee and feel I am *not my own*; Thou haſt formed and redeemed me for thy ſelf; And I deſire this Day, and every Day to glorify the God of my Life, and the Father of my Spirit.

I profeſs my ſelf thy Servant, and pray that by all Inſtructions I receive I may grow perfect in Wiſdom and Goodneſs, and become ſuch a Servant and Child as thou can'ſt love, delight in and reward; that I may ſhew forth thy Praiſe by my private Life, in a religious Family, and in the Aſſemblies of thy Saints.

And as I profeſs *to be thine*, ſettle in me ſuch an habitual ſenſe of thy Preſence, and ſo firm a Belief of thy Goſpel, as ſhall make me *Careful* to pleaſe thee every Day, *Sober* in all Bodily Refreſhments, *Juſt* in all my Dealings, *Humble* and Condeſcending in all Converſation thereby adorning the Doctrine of God, and my Chriſtian Profeſſion.

I fear I have offended thee, and engag'd thy Juſtice againſt me, by abuſing thy Goodneſs, and breaking thy Righteous Laws, by acting againſt the clear Diſcoveries of thy Love, and againſt the Dictates of my Mind and Conſcience, and againſt Purpoſes and Reſolutions of better Obedience: Such Aggravations have attended many of my Sins, as have rendered them exceeding Sinful; nor do I come before thee this Morning to excuſe, or extenuate, to juſtify, or deny my Sins, but to glorify thee by an ingenuous Confeſſion, in hope, that as thou art a God pardoning

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Iniquity, and delighting in Mercy, thou wilt prevent my being eternally miſerable, by pardoning thy returning Child, upon the Terms of thy own Covenant.

Thou haſt fed me to the full, but I have, while feeding at thy Table, liſt up the Heel againſt thee; I have nouriſhed the Corruptions and Paſſions I ought to have ſubdued, and deſpiſed the Excellent Rules by which I ſhou'd have acted; O God, waſh me thoroughly from my Sin, ſtrive with me by thy Spirit, till I am conquered; and made Obedient to thy Calls and Ready to do all thy Pleaſure; till Chriſt, and his Offers are Accepted, and he has a Throne in my Heart, where he may ſit and rule according to his Will; and in all Competitions for my Love and Service, may he always have the Preheminence.

Thy Mercies, through him, are manifold and great beyond the Power of Thought and Language, they are new *every Morning*, and follow me *every Moment*; To thee I owe my *whole Being*, the Body thou feedeſt, the Soul thou teacheſt, the Life thou preſerveſt; to thee I offer my ſinful Self, deſiring to be *made whole*, that I may become an Offering *in Righteouſneſs*.

Prepare me for my *great Change*, that I may be every Day ready to depart; and when my Time to die comes, may there be in me *ſomething Immortal* beſides my Soul, even a Principle of Holineſs and Love to God, that Seed of Grace, which God will perfect in Glory.

Cauſe thy Bleſſing to deſcend on thy Churches and Miniſters: Bring over Heathen Countries into the Pale of the Chriſtian Church, and remove the Veil of Unbelief from off the Faces of thy Antient People, who are beloved for the Father's ſake. Make this a holy and reformed,

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in order to its being a happy Nation: May the King and Queen and all the Royal Houſe be thy faithful Servants, honour thee, and be honoured by thee. Make our Houſe, and Neighbours Fearers of God, and Workers of Righteouſneſs, that we may all abide in thy Covenant.

I thank thee I have a Bed to lie down upon, and have had the laſt Night's comfortable Reſt upon it; help me to live daily with *Grace* in my Heart, that I may die with *Peace* in my Conſcience, and *Hope* in my Breaſt, through Jeſus Chriſt, my Everliving Interceſſor. *Amen.*

LII. *The* 4*th.* EVENING PRAYER.

Thurſday.

HOLY Lord God! Thou art of purer Eyes than to behold Iniquity; Sin is the Object of thine invariable Hatred, as thy Omniſcience *diſcovers* it, though practiſed in the moſt ſecret Receſſes, ſo thy Holineſs *abhors* it, though covered with ever ſuch ſpecious Pretences; thy Spotleſs Nature can never be reconciled to it, and though Hand join in Hand, the Wicked cannot go unpuniſhed, while thou art Governour and Judge of the World.

I am utterly unfit to approach ſo holy a God, in all my Iniquities; but in Obedience to thy Commands, and encouraged by thy Goodneſs, thy Invitations, and Promiſes, and my paſt Experience of thy Mercy, I am come before thee this Evening, to renew the Dedication of my ſelf to thee, to praiſe thee for all the Bounties of thy Providence, to ask the Aids of thy Spirit, and the Pardon of my Sins.

I am *as bad* as the Guilt and Filthineſs of Sin can make me, but thou, and thou alone, canſt fetch a clean Thing out of an unclean one; waſh

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me, O Lord, in the Fountain thou haſt open'd the Fountain of pardoning Blood, and of the renewing Word and Spirit; that though my Sins be as Crimſon and Scarlet, they may become white as Wool, and I may be delivered from all the Unfruitful Works of Darkneſs and have no Communion with them.

I magnify thy great Love, which ſent down thy dear Son to Miniſter to Mankind in the Labours of his Life, and the Sacrifice of his Death; how rich was that Grace? that after Men had forfeited all the Rights of Creatures, had broke thy Laws, and contemned thy Meſſengers, thou ſhould'ſt yet appear in the Perſon of thy Son, and ſend us the glad Tidings of Redemption through him, and Hope of Acceptance by his Interceſſion, and the Aids of his Spirit to prepare us for that Acceptance.

Every Day will I bleſs thee for thy Daily Goodneſs, but I wou'd offer my higheſt Praiſes to thee, as the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and, in him, the Father of Lights, and of all Grace; for I know of *no other way* of Pardon, but in and through the Mediation of thy Son; All my Services, which are all thy due, cannot atone for one Sin; but his Righteouſneſs and Obedience was fully Commenſurate to all the Demands of thy Law, through whoſe Righteouſneſs I hope to be Juſtified, and brought into Favour with an offended Deity, upon my Unfeigned Repentance.

Look on me through thy Son, renew me by his reconciling Goſpel and powerful Spirit, that I may walk more circumſpectly hereafter, and better redeem my Time: Keep me from loitering in my great Affairs; It is too late to cry out, "a little Sleep, a little Slumber, a little "Folding of the Hands to Sleep," left Spiritu-

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al Poverty come upon me *ſuddenly*, as Pain upon a Woman in Travail, and Want come *powerfully*, as an Armed Man.

Inflame my Heart with a Superlative Love to God, and to Jeſus Chriſt thy Son; O that I cou'd aſcend up to God, and draw nigh to the Seat of Chriſt, that my Heart might never come down again to this World, but filled with Sacred Deſires of Aſcending there again: ſo powerfully touch my Soul, that I may Sin no more, but live as a Chriſtian, in an active Advancement of Chriſt's Kingdom, by turning Sinners to God. Give me *Bowels of Mercy* to all in Miſery, as Chriſt has opened his Bowels towards me, a Miſerable Sinner. Give me ſuch a *Reliſh of divine Truth* revealed in thy Goſpel, that I may never more indulge my ſelf in Senſual Enjoyments, nor any more practiſe Works which Chriſt came to Deſtroy. May no ſpot remain upon me, which is not the *Spot of God's Children*; plant in me all the true Diſpoſitions of thy Children, lead me to Study and do all my Heavenly Father's Will, and let it be my Meat and Drink to do it; Cauſe me to abide in thy Love, for as the Branch cannot bear Fruit of it ſelf, unleſs it abide in the Vine, no more can I, except I abide in thee; may I therefore ſuffer nothing to ſeperate me from thy Love.

Continue to the World the Bleſſings of the Heavens and the Earth, Seed Time and Harveſt: Command Deliverence for thy Choſen, but Perſecuted People, that the Time of the Singing of Birds may come, when *Zion* ſhall put on her beautiful Garments, and rejoice in God, who ſaveth her.

Make our King truly good, and his Throne greater than the Throne of his Anceſtors; Continue us a *free*, and make us a *religious* People;

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fill thy Churches with honeſt and faithful Miniſters; dwell in our Land, and be our God.

Keep alive in my Heart a *Spring* of Grace and Piety, and ripen me for the *Harveſt* of Joy in Heaven, that I may lie down at laſt and ſleep in Jeſus; To whom be Glory for ever. *Amen.*

LIII. *The 5th* MORNING PRAYER.

Friday.

GREAT God! I am ariſen this Morning, through thy Goodneſs and Care, in a Capacity for *rational* and *religious* ſervice; and am come to worſhip at thy Foot-ſtool; but wherewith-all ſhall ſo unworthy a Creature come before the great God: All acceſs to thee for ſinners is through a Mediator, the Lord Jeſus, through whom I preſent my ſoul to thee, begging *thy Banner* over me may be Love, and *my ſervice* under it may be all holy, joyful, ſerious and hearty.

Unto thee, JEHOVAH, who art higher than the Higheſt, wou'd I aſcribe ſupreme Dignity and Honour; for there is none like thee in Heaven, or on Earth, in Greatneſs, Wiſdom and Goodneſs; all *thine Attributes* are adoreable, nor are any Works like unto thy Works, for thy Underſtanding is infinite; thou art, ever was, and ever wilt be *Happy* without us, for thou canſt not depend on what thy ſelf haſt made; Teach me to know thee in the beautiful Skill and Order of thy Works of Wonder, that I may more exalt, magnify and admire thee; the Reaſon I *ſerve* thee no better is, that I *love* thee ſo little; and the Reaſon of the Littleneſs of my Love is that I *know* ſo little of thee; Cauſe therefore the Scales of Ignorance to fall off from the Eyes

of my Underſtanding, that, by thy gracious Aids I may come to know thee the only true God, and Jeſus Chriſt thy Son.

May I ſee in Chriſt and Chriſtianity, the only Remedy of all my Spiritual Maladies; that thou haſt laid Help upon one who is mighty to ſave, who has *Blood* of Atonement to purge away my Iniquities, *Pity* to Help my Infirmities, *Power* to ſubdue mine Enemies, *Faithfulneſs*, as a Son over all his Father's Houſe, to keep us unto the End; Teach me to truſt in him as my *Saviour*, and to learn of him humility and mildneſs of Temper as my *Example*; and chearfully to ſubmit to his Yoke, as my *Governour*; make me ſenſible what Pre-engagements I am under to ſerve him, that I may never break my Covenant, nor alter the Word I have given to him. By the Power of *his Life*, as my Pattern; and of *his Law* as my Rule, ſecure me from all Conformity to the ſinful Cuſtoms of the World, and from drinking in any corrupt Principles; but ſo transform my whole mind, that I may practically know what is the holy, good, and acceptable Will of God.

And ſo ſtrengthen me in the Inward-man, that I may not deſpond, or be diſcouraged at the Croſſes and Afflictions I may this Day, or any Day in Life, be tried with; but keep my Eye fixed upon the future Recompence of Reward, nor ever, by any ſecular Proſpects, let me be tempted to do Evil, that Good may come thereby; In all Caſes may I chooſe rather to *Suffer*, than *Sin*; to be deſpiſed and laughed at by *Men* rather than abhorred and rejected of *God*; to loſe the *Smiles of the World*, rather than loſe *my Soul*. May I never ſcruple denying my Senſes, Appetites and corrupt Paſſions, in order to ſecure my Salvation, and take the Kingdom of Heaven by

by Force. God forbid I ſhou'd cheriſh any vitious Inclination towards Fellowſhip with the Unfruitful *Works of Darkneſs*, which wou'd for ever hinder me from perfecting Holineſs in thy Sight, unfit me for the Sight of thy Glory, and be my Deſtruction. Whatever Entanglements then *my Young Soul* is under, help me ſpeedily to get free from them, and to eſcape as a Bird out of the Fowler's ſnare.

By the conſtant Practiſe of Religion, make me every Day more and more fit for Death and Judgment, O that I cou'd live with the Laſt Day's Accounts in my Thoughts, that I may not be in Confuſion, when my Lord comes.

O God, pity all, particularly any of my young Relations, Acquaintance, Companions and Neighbours, who are yet in the Gall of Bitterneſs, and the Bonds of Iniquity; Looſe their Fetters, break the Chains of their Captivity, bring them into the Glorious Liberty of thy own Sons; Pour out thy Spirit abundantly, as Floods upon the dry Ground, upon the Sons and Daughters of thy People, that they may not be thoſe unhappy Youth, who refuſe and hate to be Reformed: And may none engag'd in the bleſſed work of Reformation, complain they are diſcouraged, where they ought to meet with Countenance.

Bleſſed be God, I live in a Land o Peace, that the Sword is not devouring Fleſh, and drinking Blood amongſt us, nor our Country a Field of Battle, or a Stage of Flames; that *Popiſh Fires* are extinguiſhed, and *Popiſh Tyrany* ended. Cauſe Liberty and Religion to keep their Ground; and advance under the mild and juſt Reign of our King and Queen, and under their Succeſſors. Crown all our Years with thy Goodneſs; be preſent in all worſhipping Families, and other Aſſemblies; kindle up new Lights in thy Church-

es, to ſucceed thoſe who have long ſhone and burned in them, but are now put out; that the Sons of the Prophets may poſſeſs the ſame Spirit of Wiſdom, Gravity, Holineſs and Faithfulneſs which animated their Fathers, the Prophets.

Give me a Tenderneſs towards all in Affliction, and a Readineſs to help them as I am able, as I wou'd hope for Succour from God or Man, in any of my Afflictions

Pardon what the pure Eyes of thy Majeſty has ſeen amiſs in me, in paſt Life, and in this Duty; As thou haſt not denied me the Natural Reſt of the Night, deny me not Safety and Succeſs in the Day; guide my *Wandering ſteps*; guard me in my *Thoughtleſs Hours*; help me to perſevere without fainting, till I have finiſhed the Work which God has given me to do, that I may for ever be glorified with God. to whom be Glory and Majeſty, Dominion and Power, now and for ever. *Amen.*

LIV. *The* 5*th.* EVENING PRAYER.

Friday.

EVerlaſting God! Thou art eſſentially and infinitely good, and freely communicates thy Goodneſs to the pooreſt and meaneſt of thy Creatures. Abundant Demonſtration thou haſt given, that thy Delights are with the Sons of Men; for we Read of no ſuch Expences of Grace towards *fal'n Angels*, as have been employed to Recover *fal'n Men*; yet thy Grace to *Sinners* is manifeſted by a method which ſufficiently ſhews that it is far from the Almighty to patronize or encourage *Sin*, which is the Object of thy unreconcileable Hatred, and has rendered Men unlike to thy *Nature* and oppoſite to thy *Will*;

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The Death of thy Son at once tells me how Merciful thou art to *Sinners*, and how fully reſolv'd to puniſh *Sin*.

To thee, O Eternal Rock, I fly, as to the only Refuge of my Soul; thy Omniſcient Eye purſues me every Day, and through every Step; I can never impoſe upon thee, nor cover my Sin from thee, for as thou *wilt not deceive*, ſo thou *canſt not be deceived*; no Clouds or Darkneſs can interpoſe to hinder thee from ſeeing my moſt ſecret Thoughts, they are known to thee as ſoon as they ſpring up in my own Mind; I will not then attempt to *cover*, but rather *confeſs* and *forſake* my Sin, that I may find mercy through a Mediator. And may the belief of thy All-ſeeing Eye make me holy in all manner of Converſation, ſince where ever I am, or what ever I am about, I am perpetually involved in thine Inſpection, and ſurrounded with thine infinite Eye; nor ſuffer me to flatter my ſelf that *my Youth* will be any Excuſe for Sin, ſeeing for youthful Crimes we muſt ſtand in Judgment before God.

Create my Heart anew, and form in it Diſpoſitions correſponding with the Deſign of *thy Law*, and comporting with the Diſpoſals of *thy Providence*, for to thee, O God, belongs the Preparations of the Heart of Man; Thou only art the Father of Spirits, and knoweſt how to give mine an effectual ſaving Touch; Perſuade me, Lord, to the Reaſonable Service of giving up both my Soul and Body to thee, ſince nothing is more juſt and meet, than that thou ſhouldſt have the Service of thy own Creatures and of Redeemed Captives: For my Part, I contributed not in the Leaſt to *my own Being*, It being impoſſible that I, or any Creature, ſhou'd bring together what was at ſo infinite a Diſtance as *Something* and *Nothing*

thing; and ever ſince I had a Being, I have been ſupported by thee; thy milk fed me at my Mother's Breaſt, thy Viſitation has preſerved me, all my Bones praiſe thee: I admire thy Goodneſs, which has ſo long kept alive ſo worthleſs a Worm; and thy Patience which has ſo long bore with my Evil Manners, and that I am not cut down by the Ax of thy Righteous Judgments.

How unlike is Man to God! how eaſily am I provoked, and ſet into a Flame, by the ſmalleſt Croſſes to my *Humour*, and the leaſt Affronts to my *Perſon*, or Injuries to my *Intereſt*! Give me, Lord, a better Spirit, teach me better to know my ſelf, and indue me with *Patience* in Conformity to thy ſelf, and with *Contentment* under all the Increaſes or Decreaſes of outward good, and under all the good and ill Carriage of men to me.

Yea, lead me into admiring *Thankfulneſs* for all thy undeſerved Kindneſs to me; I cannot complain that thou haſt failed me of a meal's meat, or a night's Lodging; my Life has been filled with thy Bounties; While many, who were brought up in Scarlet, embrace Dunghills, thou art making me taſte the Bleſſings of thy Goodneſs in an ample meaſure; Every Day brings with it new mercies, ſo that I have no reaſon to repent my Choice of God for my maſter, whoſe *ſervice* is Freedom, whoſe *gifts* are ſo many at preſent, and whoſe future *rewards* are ſo unſpeakably great.

As thou art abounding in thy *Mercy*, may I abide in my *duty*; and think my beſt Services a poor Return for all thy Love, who haſt not thought thy beloved Son too great a gift for Men.

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Through the merit of his Obedience, Sacrifice and Interceſſion, thou haſt opened a Door of Hope for me; his Oblation of himſelf, through the Eternal Spirit, has more Virtue to take away Sin, and procure Reconciliation, than all the Legal Sacrifices, which cou'd never purify the Conſcience; Increaſe my Faith, Truſt and Hope in God, through him, till it grow up into a Comfortable Perſwaſion and full Aſſurance.

Aſſiſt me now, *in the days of my Youth*, ſo to live as one who expects to die, and be judged, according to the Quality of my Works, whether good or evil.

Make Chriſtianity to ſpread over the World; Defend the Reformed Intereſt; Give our King the Hearts of all his Subjects; In due time make Inquiſition for the Blood of thy perſecuted, murdered Saints: Bleſs thy Churches with a Succeſſion of good Miniſters; though the Streams dry up, it is thy Peoples Comfort, that the Fountain is full: I truſt thee with the Lives of all my dear Relations.

I bleſs thee, O my God, for the Covenant of Grace, for the miniſtry of thy Angels; for the Bounties of thy Providence, and for all thy multiplied Favours; Let a Senſe of them quicken me in my Duty; preſerve in me a good and ſerious Frame, when I lie down and when I riſe up; Be my God and my Guide for ever.

Overlook whatever thou ſeeſt amiſs in me, in my Spirit, Prayers and Life, and accept what is Sincere, through Jeſus Chriſt my Redeemer and Advocate. *Amen.*

LV. *The* 6th MORNING PRAYER.

Saturday.

INfinitely great and good God! Thou art the God of my Life, and of all my Enjoyments and Comforts; Thou art the Life of my Soul, and art more to our Souls, than our Souls are to our Bodies; I cannot exerciſe any of my Faculties without thee, on whom I depend both for Exiſtence and Operation, as naturally and as neceſſarily as the Stream does upon the Fountain, or the Rays upon the Sun whence they flow.

By thee, O great Preſerver of Man, I live to this Morning, and becauſe thy Compaſſions to a poor Sinner fail not, I am not yet conſumed, though I am every Day provoking the God who gave me Breath, and who holds my Soul in Life.

It is high time for me to turn to God by a new Life; I have too long indulg'd my Body, to the Prejudice of my Soul, and ſpent my time in Vanity; Hear the Prayer of thy Penitent Child, and cure all the Diſtempers of my Heart; lead me into the Study of thy Holy Word, and by its Inſtructions and powerful Motives, may I be drawn to pleaſe God in an exact Conformity to thy Goſpel, that my Foot-ſteps may ſlide no more.

Give me a Claim to Goſpel Promiſes, and enable me to ſee my Claim, that in the Comfort of the Scriptures I may have Hope: Nor let thy ſeeming Delays to puniſh Vice and reward Virtue, be any Diſcouragement to me, ſince verily there is a God who Judgeth in the Earth, and whoſe Faithfulneſs will not ſuffer a word of Scripture to fail.

Make me a living, lively Chriſtian, to follow Chriſt, my Maſter, in all the ways of Truth Righ-

Righteouſneſs, Self-denial and Goodneſs, with more Pleaſure, than I ever followed after the Vanities and Senſualities of a deluding World; and while many are labouring only for the *Meat that periſheth*, may my chief Concern be for *that which endureth* to everlaſting Life; and may I always prefer a ſenſe of thy *Favour*, the Love of *Truth*, the Practiſe of *Duty*, and the Hope of *Heaven*, to all the mean and droſſy, the painful and tormenting Pleaſures of Sin. And having abandon'd every ſinful Courſe, enable me to ſerve Jeſus Chriſt with a fœderal Obedience all my Days, and never ſay of the great and laſt Meſſenger God has ſent amongſt Men, "I will not have this Man to reign over me."

Great Father! Turn me not away this Morning unheard and unbleſt; Thou haſt oft been found of them *who ſought thee not*; turn not away thy Face from an unworthy Creature *ſeeking to thee*, and who values thy Favour above all the World: Be intreated to pity and ſpare and help me, till my Work is done, and well done.

I ſee my Time ſpending apace, another *Week* is now almoſt gone, and how little have I done in it for God, my Soul and Heaven; Yet I hope it will not be number'd amongſt Weeks *wholly loſt*: And if thou haſt yet *more Patience* with me, I hope ſtill to ſerve thee better, and no longer to live an inſignificant and unprofitable Life.

I am ſenſible thou art a dreadful God, with whom is Terrible Majeſty, and I dare not think of trifling with thee any longer; as thy Power is irreſiſtable, ſo thy Juſtice is inflexible, Thou art more above the great Kings of the Earth, than they are above the meaneſt Worm; may the Belief of thy glorious Perfections make me

leave off Sining; and all thy Great Attributes be anſwered by correſponding *Impreſſions* on my Mind, and ſuitable *Actions* in my Life; And all thy great Relations to me, as Creator, Sovereign, Benefactor, be anſwered by Duty agreeable to them.

As I hope thou haſt brought me into thy Kingdom and Family, I deſire to ſerve thee as a Subject and Child; I wou'd be fruitful in good Works, and not ſerve my God with *what coſts me nothing*, nor put thee off with the *Labour of my Sins*, but ſerve thee actively, willingly, chearfully, in all the Labours of a *Beneficent Life*,

And now, O God, I make one more Surrender of my Heart to thee, through the Mediation of thy Son, and beg I may be content with all thy Diſpoſals of me, and Allowances to me; and may ſubmit to all the Notifications of thy Pleaſure; To which End, keep my Eye fixed on inviſible Glories, as the Reward of preſent Services and Sufferings; And, after a Life of Faithfulneſs and Fruitfulneſs, may I enter into Reſt amongſt the innumerable Company of Holy Souls, who have finiſhed their Life and Labours, and whoſe Robes are waſhed in the Blood of the Lamb, To whom be Bleſſing and Glory for ever. *Amen.*

LVI. *The* 6th Evening Prayer.

Saturday.

ALmighty, moſt great, and ever bleſſed God! Thou haſt thy Being by abſolute neceſſity of Nature, without Original; and giveſt a Being to all who partake of it: Thou art the *Alpha* and *Omega*, the efficient *Cauſe* of all Creatures, in Heaven and Earth, and the *End* of

of all their Operations, ſince for thy Pleaſure, and to Communicate thy own Goodneſs and Happineſs, were they all Created; Aſſiſt me in giving the Praiſe due unto thee, and in ſeeking my Happineſs in thee, who haſt made me for thy Glory.

Though I am *Young*, and have but a ſhort Experience of the World, yet I have tried it enough to find that I cannot be happy in all the World, *without God*; Every Week, and every Day convinces me that there is little but Diſappointment and Vexation in the Things of the World, and the Enjoyments of Senſe; but the Pleaſures of Religion, of a good Conſcience and a Virtuous Life, are ſolid and laſting.

I own, I am vile in my Original; and by actual Sin, have *forfeited Life* and all the Rights of Life; I have ſadly *loſt my Innocence*, have been contracting a *Carnal Mind* and *an Enmity* to God and Goodneſs; and thou doſt me no wrong, if thou drive me from thy Preſence, and reduce me to Nothing: but, by the Goſpel of thy Son, thou inviteſt ſuch Rebels as I am to take Sanctuary in thy Grace, and to ſeek loſt Happineſs in thy Favour.

What was loſt in the *Firſt Adam*, is now recoverable by the Death and Reſurrection, the Power and Merit of the *Second*; In order to a ſhare in recovered Life, I beg the Image of thy Holineſs may be re-impreſs'd on my Mind, that I may honour thee as a Son honoureth his Father, and be afraid of any Actions which may offend thee, or bring any Reflection on thy Glory.

May I not any longer lie groveling on the Earth, while my new Life and my Inheritance are above; but ſeek a *Kingdom* which is to come whoſe Founder is God, and a *Houſe* not made

with Hands, that when the Kingdoms and Houſes of this World are all diſſolv'd and burnt down, my Soul may be ſafe, and my Portion ſecure.

Let it be no Hindrance to my Chriſtian Progreſs: that the World look ſhy on me, and think it Strange that I run not with them to their *Exceſs of Riot*, and ſpeak Evil of me; Give me that inward Peace and joyful Hope, which wou'd abundantly overballance all the fooliſh Banter and Ridicule, Scorn and Contempt of Wicked Men: I bleſs God, I *begin to feel* the Advantages of a religious Life far exceeding all the Evil I do, or can ſuffer by it; And hope, that by a Truſt in God, whoſe Promiſes are all *Yea* and *Amen*, I ſhall be ſupported under all ſorts and all degrees of Diſcouragements in the ways of Virtue.

And now that I am finiſhing the *Day* and *Week*, I wou'd ſeriouſly and penitently review all my *Miſtakes* and *Follies*, all my Negligence and Failings, begging merciful Pardon: I wou'd review thy *Mercies* with Praiſe, and deſire to renew my *Reſolutions* to be thine.

Spare me, through this Night, to thy own approaching Day; In the Multitude of thy tender Mercies, may I go into thy Houſe, and, in thy Fear, worſhip in thy Temple. Deliver me from a *trifling Spirit* in Prayer and Praiſe, and under the Word: May I ſuffer no *vain Thoughts* to inſinuate themſelves, to hinder the Profit or Pleaſure thine Ordinances are fitted to give. Thou haſt appointed the *Sabbath* for a Sign, that we ſhou'd be Holy to thee the Lord; Aſſiſt me in the *holy* and *heavenly* Employment of the Day, that I, and all I do, may be Holineſs to the Lord. While many are put off with Corn and Wine, and the Bleſſings that *ſpring out of the Earth*, I enjoy the Bleſſings *which come down from*

from Heaven; my Mercies are the Mercies but of a few, O that my Improvements were in any Proportion to them! Enable me to walk worthy of my diſtinguiſhing Privileges, ſince where much is given, much will be required; keep me from diſappointing thy juſt Expectations.

Cauſe thy Word, on thy Day, to do powerful Execution on Sin, that many a Soul may date its Converſion from *To-morrow*: May my Heart be ſoftened, and every way bettered, and my Life continually grow more correct and fruitful; that I may always ſtand ready for the Great Day, when Men will not be promiſcuouſly either juſtified or condemned, but with an exact and diſtinguiſhing Judgment, according as every ones Work has been.

Theſe Things, with whatever elſe thine infinite Wiſdom ſees needful for a poor ſinning Mortal, I humbly beg of thee, through Jeſus Chriſt, in whoſe prevailing Name, and in whoſe perfect Form of Words, I conclude theſe Addreſſes. "Our Father, who art in Heaven, "Sanctified be thy Name; thy Kingdom come, "thy Will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven, "Give us, Day by Day, our Daily Bread; and "Forgive us our Treſpaſſes, as we forgive thoſe "who treſpaſs againſt us; and lead us not into "Temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One, "for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and "the Glory, for ever. *Amen.*

PRAYERS and *THANKSGIVINGS *Before and After* MEAT.

Before MEAT

I,

HEavenly Father, thou art good, and doſt good; be good to me in bleſſing my Food, and ſupplying all my Wants, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

II

GOOD God, whatever is ſet on the Table for our Refreſhment, bleſs Thou it, and it ſhall be bleſſed, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

III.

GReat God, who haſt Created us, and Redeemed us, and now providedſt comfortably for us, grant us Grace to Eat and Drink and Live to thy Glory, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

IV.

ALmighty God, and Heavenly Father, who openeſt thine Hand, and ſatifieſt the Wants of all, give us a ſuitable Bleſſing at this Time, which ſhall convert our Food into proper and ſufficient Nouriſhment, and diſpoſe our Minds to all our future Duty, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

V

BLeſſed God, we are unworthy of our Lives and of all other Mercies; but thy great Bounty

*Note. *Giving Thanks is proper* Before *Meat, and ſo the word* Grace *ſignifies.* See Mark viii. 6. John vi. 11.

ty is ſtill ſupplying; Pardon our Unworthineſs, bleſs the Proviſions of this Table, cauſe us to Eat and Drink with Sobriety, Moderation and Thankfulneſs, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

VI

GOOD and gracious God, through thy continued Goodneſs and Patience we meet here from Time to Time in Health and Peace; thou gives us Appetites and Food convenient for us, bleſſed be thy Name; while we are partaking of the Fruits of thy Fatherly Care and Love, may we chearfully devote our Hearts, Time and Strength to thy Service, and the good of our Fellow Creatures, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

VII

WE liſt up our Hearts and Eyes to thee, the Lord of Heaven and Earth, who giveſt us Life and Breath and all Things, owning thy great Bounty to us in ſupplying us with what pertains both to Life and Godlineſs; Aſſiſt us in a Wiſe and Righteous Uſe of all thy Bleſſings, and may it be our Meat and our Drink to do thy Will, and to ſerve our Generation according to thy Will, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

VIII.

O Moſt bountiful God, who Furniſheſt our Tables with the Spoils of the Creation, and art making all the Elements round us contribute to our Support; Command a Bleſſing on the Fruits

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Note. *By Changing the Plural Numbers* we *and* us *and* our, *into the Singular* I, me, my *&c. they will fit perſons eating alone.*

Fruits of thy undeſerved Goodneſs; May our Table never become our Snare, nor any of thy Mercies be wantonly abuſed by us, but let them be Motives to Love and Serve thee better; and through the Aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit, may we employ faithfully our renewed Life, Health, Time and Strength to promote Religion, Righteouſneſs, and Goodneſs in the World, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

After MEAT.

I

BLeſſed be God, who daily loadeth us with his Benefits, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

II

WE thank thee, Heavenly Father, we have Bread to eat, and Raiment to put on, and many other Mercies for Soul and Body; may we uſe them all to thy Glory, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

III.

WE own with Thankfulneſs, O God, thy Care of us and Love to us, in that we are ſo comfortably fed with theſe thy good Creatures, freely given to us; may we go from this Table with Diſpoſitions to do for thee true and faithful Service, acceptable in Chriſt Jeſus. *Amen.*

IV.

GOOD and gracious God, we return thee our Humble and Hearty Thanks that thou haſt made us rational Creatures, haſt redeemed us by the Blood of thy Son, haſt maintained our Lives and our Health, and given us leave at this

this time to eat our Bread in Peace and Chearfulneſs, thy holy Name be praiſed now and for ever. *Amen.*

V

GLorious God, we meet with new Mercies every Day, and in every Place; through thy watchful Care of us, we have had a Comfortable Meeting at this Table, and are plentifully fed; Incline us to pity and help thoſe who want the Mercies we enjoy, and may our whole Lives teſtify the true ſenſe we have of thy Goodneſs, and our own Unworthineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

VI.

BLeſſed be thy Name, O Lord our God, that we yet live, and live on the Bleſſings of thy Providence; Raiſe up our Hearts to Chriſt and Heaven, and thoſe better Things thou haſt prepared for them who love thee; And by a Life offered up to thee, in all holy, thankful, uſeful Obedience, may we be prepared for that World, where we ſhall Hunger and Thirſt no more, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

VII

GOOD and Merciful God, in thee we live move, and ſubſiſt, and thou art daily following us with thy Bounties; we thank thee for this Comfortable Support of our animal Lives; Renew our Souls into thine Image, begin and perfect in us the Divine Life; and while we are living on thy Goodneſs, may we bear Fruit to thy Glory, and to the Good of Mankind thro' Jeſus Chriſt, To whom be Honour and Praiſe for ever. *Amen.*

VIII

WE magnify thy Power and Goodneſs, O bleſſed God, for thy manifold Mercies from Time to Time, beſtowed on us; we adore thee for ſending Jeſus Chriſt to die for us, and to preach Salvation to us, and that through him thou art pouring all Bleſſing on us: We praiſe thee for theſe good Creatures of thine wherewith we are now refreſhed, and which thou haſt ordained to be received with Thankſgivings; May they be Sanctified by thy Word and Prayer, and improved in a Life acceptable to thee, through Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

The END.